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ABSTRACT

The report presented here, the result of a workshop in Bulgaria with the cooperation of Bulgarian educators, provides information on the educational system of that country, primarily for use in student placement in U.S. schools. A brief introductory chapter gives background information on the country, its geography, resources, population, and history. The second chapter outlines the country's educational history, with emphasis on changes since 1990. Chapter 3 describes preschool and elementary, and in more detail, secondary education. Chapter 4, on higher education, provides some recent history and information on administration, financing, faculty, institution types, admission, academic year, credentials awarded, examinations, grading, credits, transfer, student records, foreign students, and adult and continuing education. A chapter is devoted to specialized and professional curricula in a number of disciplines. Guidelines for United States college admissions officers concerning placement and recognition of credentials are offered in Chapter 6. Appended materials include a list of higher education institutions, sample record forms and documents, notes on the National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials, a Bulgarian-English glossary, key to Cyrillic transliteration, and a brief bibliography. (Contains 14 references). Contents are indexed. (MSE)

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PIER World Education Series

Bulgaria

WORKSHOP

REPORT

1995

American
Association of
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PIER World Education Series

Bulgaria

A Workshop Report on the Educational System and Guide to the Academic Placement of Students in Educational Institutions in the United States

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Workshop
Report
1995

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NAFSA: Association of International Educators is a nonprofit membership association that provides training, information, and other educational services to professionals in the field of international educational exchange. Its 6,500 members, from the United States and more than 50 countries, make it the largest professional membership association concerned with the advancement of effective international educational exchange in the world.

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8

Preface

This volume in the World Education Series (WES) is a workshop report of the structure and content of the educational system of Bulgaria, together with a formal set of placement recommendations based upon the research of the workshop team. The placement recommendations have been reviewed and officially approved by the National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials. Each WES volume is published in accordance with standards of independent academic research and does not seek to advance any domestic or international political aim.

The World Education Series is published by PIER (Projects for International Education Research), a committee of appointed representatives from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and the College Board. PIER was formed in 1990 with the merger of two long-standing committees; the World Education Series Committee of AACRAO and the PIER Committee of AACRAO and NAFSA. The members of the PIER Committee during the research and development of this volume are listed on the opposite page.

PIER is charged with research and dissemination of information on educational systems throughout the world, for use in the admission and placement of students and scholars in educational institutions in the United States. In addition to publishing reports on these systems, PIER develops workshops and seminars on international credentials evaluation.

Four types of publications make up the World Education Series: full country studies, workshop reports, special reports, and working papers. The PIER Committee oversees the selection of topics, authors, and reviewers. Among the topics covered are levels of education, institutions, admission and program requirements, grading systems, credentials awarded, and study abroad programs. Placement recommendations, when included, are approved by the National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials. For more information concerning the National Council and its members, see page 38. Information and an order form for currently available PIER volumes can be found on the last two pages of this volume.

William H. Smart, Chair

Acknowledgments

The PIER workshop on Bulgaria provided a unique opportunity to visit a country wrestling with the many challenges arising from the political and economic changes that followed the overthrow of the Communist-led government in 1990. This was an especially exciting time to meet with Bulgarian colleagues, to visit their institutions, and to listen to their plans and hopes for the future as they strive to reshape the educational environment into a freer and less vocationally driven mold. It was also a difficult time to undertake a workshop to study the country's educational system, for, although a draft was being prepared, a new Education Law had not been enacted by Parliament. Economic problems threaten to limit the implementation of many of the proposed reforms, such as extending the period of compulsory education and upgrading the physical facilities at all levels. There appeared to be a great deal of interest in restructuring the Bulgarian educational system along more Western European lines, but the debate is ongoing as to the most suitable model. In the midst of this atmosphere of change and even ferment, our goal has been to present the most accurate and current information available to us at the time of the workshop in spring 1993.

Given the intense nature of this project, we were very appreciative of the warm welcome extended to us by the many educators with whom we met and talked. We are especially grateful to the rectors and staffs of the universities and institutes, and the directors of the schools we visited, for giving so generously of their time to meet with us and answer our questions. They are too numerous to name here, but we wish them well as they continue to plan for the future.

There are certain persons without whose assistance the workshop could not have taken place and to whom we wish to pay tribute. The task of planning and organizing the workshop visit would not have been possible without the generous help and support provided by the U.S. Embassy staff in Sofia, most especially by Mr. Mark Dillen, Cultural Affairs Officer, and Ms. Kathy Schallow of the United States Information Service (USIS). Their help in establishing contacts with the appropriate officials at the Ministry of Education and Science was invaluable, and we are deeply appreciative.

We are also indebted to Dr. Jordan Stoychkov, Director of the Department of International Cooperation at the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, and to his staff and colleagues for the time spent in assisting us. We make special mention also of Dr. Stoychkov's assistant, Ms. Kalinka Glaveva, who handled all of the logistics for the team visits around the country and in Sofia. Everyone enjoyed knowing and working with her. We also wish to thank the Open Society in Sofia, particularly Mr. George Prohasky, the Executive Director, and Ms. Ilyana Gulycheva, Educational Advisor, for their generosity in providing meeting space and computer support in Sofia.

For their help in translating credentials and other material and in clarifying some of the details of the Bulgarian educational system, we wish to thank Dr. Danial Bonchev, Rector of the New University at Burgas; Dr. Zoya Avramova, Research Scientist, Purdue University; and Dr. P.J. Georgeoff, Associate Dean, School of Education, Purdue University.

Support for the PIER workshop to Bulgaria was generously provided by the United States Information Agency, the Graduate Management Admissions Council, the Graduate Record Examination Board, the TOEFL Policy Council, the College Board, Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., the International Education Research Foundation, and the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC). Our special thanks to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute for providing meeting space in Munich for the initial orientation and for the debriefing and writing period at the end of the workshop. All of us extend an extra special measure of thanks to Dr. Duncan Perry, Deputy Director, for providing an historical introduction to the region and for being a most gracious host.

We acknowledge with gratitude the expert help and advice throughout the project of Jeanne-Marie Duval and Linda Callihan of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, of Henrianne Wakefield of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and of N. Taylor Gregg of The Braintree Group. We also thank Rebecca Dixon and William Smart, past chairs of the PIER Committee, as well as PIER committee members for commissioning the workshop and for all their support.

This publication represents the cooperative effort of an enthusiastic, dedicated, and hard-working team of professional colleagues. For their tolerance and fortitude, we thank them. We also thank their institutions for granting them the release time to participate in the workshop: Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC), Educational Testing Service, University of Central Oklahoma, and World Education Services, Inc. We very much appreciate the interest of the European Association of International Education (EAIE), which, in a first for EAIE, funded an observer to our PIER workshop, Jindra Divis of NUFFIC, whose presence added a valuable dimension.

Finally, a sincere thank you to a very special person, Caroline Aldrich-Langen, who stepped in late in the project as co-editor, and whose expertise and hard work have enabled us to complete this project.

Margery Ismail   Arunas Alisauskas   December 1994

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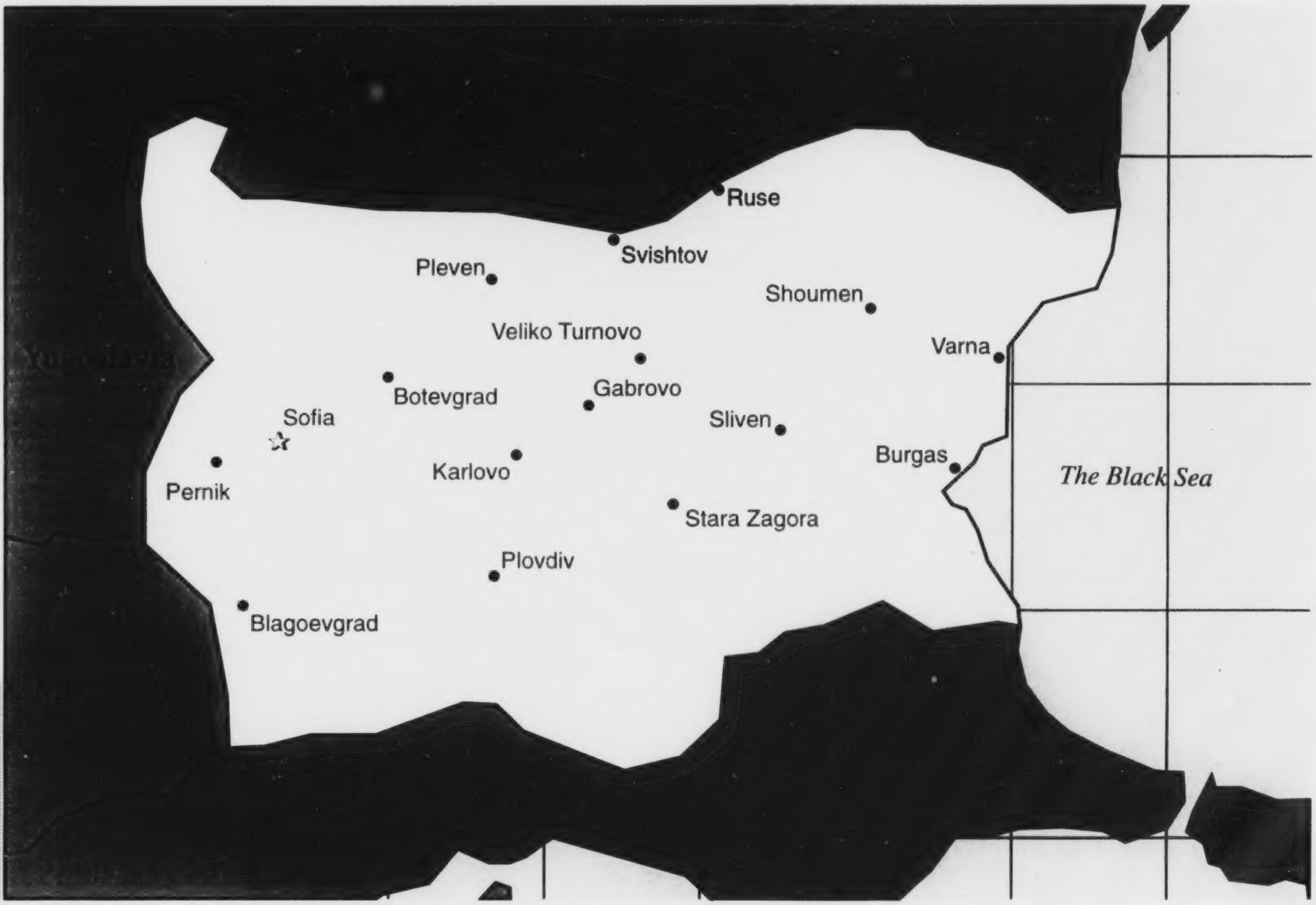
Map: Bulgaria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Plovdiv
Blagoevgrad

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Chapter 1
Introduction

The Country

Bulgaria belongs to that region of southeastern Europe that is popularly known as "the Balkans." Historically, this area has been in an unenviable geopolitical position—with the Turkish Ottoman Empire extending along the southern border, the Russian Empire to the north and east, and the Austrian-Hungarian Empire to the north and west, the Balkans have traditionally been subjected to strong political and cultural pressures and influences from all three directions. In addition, more distant European powers such as Great Britain, France, and Germany vied for influence in the area from the 1870s until the end of World War II. The term "Balkanization" was coined to express the type of fragmentation and disruption that has characterized this region for centuries.

Today, Bulgaria has three immediate neighbors along its southern perimeter: Turkey, Greece, and the emerging state of Macedonia. The former Yugoslav state of Serbia adjoins Bulgaria's western border; and along the north, the Danube River forms much of the lengthy natural and political boundary with Romania. The Black Sea washes Bulgaria's eastern coastline and offers a more direct gateway to the Ukraine and Russia.

Although Bulgaria does not share a common land border with Russia or the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, traditionally there have been very close cultural and political ties with Russia and, subsequently, with the Soviet Union. The Bulgarian and Russian peoples share a similar Slavic language, a common Cyrillic script, and a similar Orthodox faith. In addition, Russia played the dominant political, military, and diplomatic role in the achievement of Bulgarian autonomy within the Ottoman Empire in 1878 and the achievement of formal independence from Turkey in 1908. Four decades later, Soviet troops "liberated" the country from German occupation towards the close of World War II. The Bulgarian monarchy was formally abolished in 1946 and, thereafter, a political and economic system modelled closely on that of the Soviet Union was introduced. The rapid break-up of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the late 1980s was quickly followed by the collapse of Communist Party control in Bulgaria and a call for democratic elections, as well as a change from a centrally controlled to a freer market economy. Elections have been held and the indications are that Bulgaria is moving towards a more liberal economic system, albeit with many problems and uncertainties still to be addressed.

Geography

Mountains cover three-quarters of Bulgaria's surface area and define its topography, which is dominated by a C-shaped elevated arc whose open end faces the Black Sea littoral. The northern crest of this arc is formed by the Balkan mountain range, from which the entire region derives its name. This range overlooks a relatively narrow plain along the Danube river to the north, while, to the west, the 6,000-foot-high Balkan Mountains extend into Serbia. The Rhodope mountain range, which forms the southern crest of this C-shaped arc, blocks easy access to Greece and the Aegean Sea. The central portion of the arc, however, is drained by the Maritsa River, which eventually flows through Greece into the Aegean Sea. This interior region is characterized by a high plateau in the west, with several basins or depressions. With the exception of the larger Maritsa River valley, a series of ridges and small valleys sloping gradually to the Black Sea coast gives rise to quite rugged terrain. As a consequence, human settlements tend to be concentrated in pockets within the valleys and depressions, the largest being the one around the capital city of Sofia.

Bulgaria has a more extreme, continental type of climate than its southern latitude might indicate. The winters are cold and damp, while summers generally tend to be hot and dry. The mountain ranges that encircle the populated interior areas block the penetration of the ameliorating winds from the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, which would serve to temper the polarizing influence of the Eurasian landmass.

Resources

Until after World War II, the Bulgarian economy remained predominantly agrarian and quite traditional in its structure and organization. Intensive subsistence farming with relatively high productivity and a few cash crops such as sugar beets, rose essence, and dairy products characterized much of the social and economic life of the country. Industrial development received a great impetus in the post-war period, however, as agriculture was collectivized and a series of five-year plans were implemented.

This resulted in the exploitation of the country's coal and lignite deposits, iron ore, and some petroleum, as well as the development of a nuclear energy program. Food processing and the textile industry were expanded, while the manufacture of heavy machinery became an important specialization. Since 1948, when only 18% of the work force was engaged in non-agricultural occupations, the percentage has risen until 80% are now employed in the industrial and service sectors of the economy. Before 1989, Bulgaria's major trading partners were within the Soviet bloc. Since that time, however, joint ventures with western companies and attempts to attract more capital have resulted in increased trade with western European countries but also an unfavorable balance of payments as the demand for imported goods has risen.

Population

Bulgaria's current population numbers close to 9 million. With approximately 210 inhabitants per square mile, the country has a very low density for Europe. Until the 1950s, most of the inhabitants lived in the countryside, but rapid industrialization since that time has spurred urban growth so that two-thirds of the population (approximately 6 million) are now officially classed as urban.

With a population of well over 1 million, Sofia, Bulgaria's capital, is by far the largest city. The other major urban centers are Plovdiv (with over 350,000 inhabitants), Stara Zagora (over 150,000 inhabitants) in the center of the country, and Ruse (approximately 190,000 inhabitants) in the north. The Black Sea coast is another significant area of urban development, where the ports and modern resort cities of Varna (with over 300,000 inhabitants) and Burgas (approximately 200,000 inhabitants) have become increasingly important.

Approximately 85% of the inhabitants of the country are ethnic Bulgarians, who form the dominant linguistic and cultural group. There is, however, a significant minority of Turks who account for about 8% of the total population. The Romany people (gypsies) make up approximately 3% of the inhabitants, while the remainder consists of smaller concentrations of Greeks, Russians, and Armenians.

History

The territory now known as Bulgaria was settled by Slavic peoples in the sixth century. They were invaded by a Turkic group known as the Bulgars in the latter part of the seventh century. Although assimilation by the Slavs occurred, the Bulgars left their imprint on the region in the name of the present day country of Bulgaria. The region fell under the rule of the Byzantine Empire, which in turn was conquered by the Ottoman Turks at the end of the fourteenth century. There followed the period known in Bulgarian history as "the dark night" when the Ottoman yoke fell heavily on the native peoples. However, the arts, literature, and architecture flourished under the Ottomans and the Bulgarians were able to maintain an identity through these media during the 500 years of occupation. With the help of Russia and Romania, the Ottoman Turks were defeated in 1878 and the autonomous state of Bulgaria was established in 1885 with boundaries similar to the present day.

A desire for an outlet to the Aegean Sea has made for uneasy relations with its neighbors since the organization of the Bulgarian state. This was the major motivation behind the government's alignment with Germany during both world wars, leading to defeat twice in this century. The USSR marched into Bulgaria in September 1944 and seized power from the ruling coalition. Succeeding governments were organized along Soviet lines and Bulgaria was closely allied with the USSR until the events of 1989 brought this period to a close.

Chapter 2

Overview of the Bulgarian Educational System

History

The first schools were established in the ninth century by Cyril and Methodius, inventors of the Cyrillic alphabet, and their students. In 1393, with the defeat of the Bulgarians at Turnovo, the region came under the occupation of the Ottoman Empire. While education was well developed in the pre-Ottoman era, during the Ottoman occupation it went through a period of decline and arrested development, though it did not cease to exist. Schools attached to monasteries continued to teach the Bulgarian culture. Independence from Ottoman rule came in 1878. Education developed rapidly in the young nation-state. Compulsory education, 3 years of schooling for all children, was introduced in 1878. This period of compulsory schooling was increased to 4 years in 1884 and 7 years in 1922. The University of Sofia was founded in 1888 with one faculty (chartered in 1909), followed by institutions such as the National Library (1878) and Art Academy (1896), among others. While the educational achievements of this period were impressive, the Balkan Wars and World Wars I and II had a tremendous impact on the socio-economic development, not only of Bulgaria but of the entire region.

In September 1944 a Socialist coalition came to power and the People's Republic of Bulgaria was founded. The post-1944 system of education became a responsibility of the State and the entire system was completely reorganized in 1949, eliminating all religious influences. At the tertiary level the following subjects were introduced into the curriculum: Principles of Marxism-Leninism, History of the Communist Party of Bulgaria, and Dialectical and Historical Materialism.

According to the Constitution adopted in 1971, the legal basis of the system of education in the Republic of Bulgaria derives from Article 45, which states: "Every citizen has the right to free education in all grades and types of educational establishments, under conditions determined by law... education is secular, democratic and progressive in spirit... schools belong to the State." According to Article 53 of the Constitution, "citizens have the right to free education in all kinds and levels."

The downfall of the Communist regime in 1989 was only the beginning of profound changes in Bulgaria. During the years 1990-1992 major changes took place in the educational system of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Law of School Education, passed by the National Assembly on October 10, 1991, and several legal acts passed during the years 1991-1992, outline certain of the global aims of education: "Mastering of the basics and the general regularities of human knowledge... Adopting universal and national values, virtues and culture... of individuality and stimulating its creative potential... Mental, physical, and social development preparation for a healthy way of life."

The changes in the Bulgarian education system that were proposed and envisioned in 1990 were still not in place by early 1994. Therefore, in this volume, the features of the system are denoted as either "pre-1990" or "proposed beginning in 1990." (See Table 2.1 for a comparison of secondary-level enrollments from 1970 through 1990.)

The Pre-1990 System

During 1981-1982, 1,498,932 individuals were enrolled in all levels of education. During the same year 23,243 students were accepted by tertiary-level institutions, and a total of 15,541 students graduated from those institutions.

Structure

The system of education was organized to provide the following educational stages:

Preprimary education (for children between 3 and 6 or 7 years of age).

Primary education (8 years of study and compulsory for all children) divided into elementary (grades 1 through 3), and pregymnasium or intermediate (grades 4 through 8).

Secondary education (3 or 4 years of study, grades 9 through 11 or 12).

3

Table 2.1 Secondary Level Enrollment In Bulgaria (1970 -1990)

Number Of Students	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Enrolled in secondary schools	100,949	116,586	97,089	163,417	152,683
Enrolled in vocational schools	283,203	286,995	248,775	211,148	241,498
Earned secondary certificate	93,954	118,041	97,791	98,184	97,138
Admitted to higher education	18,434	21,402	16,452	24,331	31,205

Source: Ministry of Education and Science, Bulgaria

Higher education (2 or more years of study) offered by non-university semi-higher institutes (2- to 3.5-year programs) and universities or higher institutes (4 or more years of study).

Types of Institutions

Education was offered in the following types of institutions:

Detski yasli (creches)
Detski gradini (preschools and kindergartens for children 3 to 6/7 years old)
Edinno sredno politekhnichesko uchilishte/ESPU (general polytechnical schools offering the entire elementary/secondary cycle of education, 11 years of schooling)
Poluvisshi instituti (semi-higher institutes)
Visshi instituti (higher institutes, schools, academies)
Universiteti (universities).

Administration and Finance

Education was coordinated by three bodies: the Ministry of Education, the Council of Higher Education, and the Regional Inspectorates. The dominant characteristic of the entire system of education was its high degree of centralization. The Ministry of Public Education, headed by the minister, was the most important administrative body in the country with regard to preprimary, primary, and secondary education. Among its many functions and responsibilities were curricular and text development and teaching methodology, as well as ensuring the teaching of ideology. The ministry approved the basic curricula and programs of study, supervised the writing of textbooks, established entrance and graduation requirements, determined national standards and procedures for teacher employment, and established or closed primary and secondary level schools.

Education was financed by the national budget. The Finance Planning Section of the Ministry of Public Education assembled the budget for review and approval by the National Assembly. Public expenditure on education for 1988 was 4.4% of the GNP.

Features Proposed Beginning In 1990

The recent political developments in Eastern Europe have had an enormous impact on the entire region. Since 1917 in the Soviet Union, and after World War II in the rest of the countries of the so-called Eastern Bloc, education was under the auspices of the state and based on a set of common principles believed to define socialist education. These earlier principles included eradication of illiteracy; "massification" of education at the secondary level, making it universally available to all students; emphasis on polytechnical education at the secondary level; and introduction of Marxist-Leninist ideology in education. Particular focus was placed on polytechnical education, adopted from the Soviet paradigm. The main objective of this principle was the linking of education with life outside the classroom and in particular with the world of labor. It denoted the utilitarian aspect of socialist education and its orientation towards the demands of a planned economy in terms of industrial and scientific personnel, qualifications, and the shaping of work attitudes.

The collapse of the governing Communist regime in Bulgaria led to the collapse of highly centralized, state-controlled structures—economic, social, and political. It is within this context that, beginning in 1990, not only the government but the entire nation-state embarked on the tremendous task of redefining its economic and political structures and institutions. One of the first decisions of the newly elected government was to establish a Ministry of Education and Science (known briefly in 1992-1993 as the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture) by merging the existing Ministry of Education (general education) and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The new ministry has been established as a "body for developing and carrying out State policy in the sphere of education and science... It will participate in the drafting and ordination of the national strategy for the development of education and science ... implementation of State directives regarding education... has the authority to open and close State and municipal schools at all levels of education, as well as scientific organizations." It is responsible for every aspect of primary and secondary education including the development in detail of curricula, programs, textbooks and materials, and teaching methodology. In this respect, the system remains centralized, since the Ministry controls the decision-making process. Teachers are consulted only for their opinion regarding whether or not they think the curriculum will overwhelm the students. Furthermore, teachers are permitted to use other texts and materials beyond those prescribed by the Ministry only after they have incorporated all the prescribed materials into their instruction.

The Central Department or "State School Inspectorate" at the Ministry is still in control of the entire secondary system of education in terms of its organization, management, and policy implementation. On the regional level, the functions of coordination and control are assigned to 28 regional inspectorates of education, which report directly to the Central Department. They, in turn, implement the State's educational policy in their respective regions.

The 1992 White Paper

In 1992, the government published a white paper on education, which gives a review of education and science and contains data published for the first time in Bulgaria. The statistical information confirmed the extremely low share of finances allocated to education. Furthermore, the white paper was an attempt to address and answer issues such as the State's role in the processes of educational management, the modes of financing, the extent of autonomy of various educational institutions, and the nature of new curricula and programs. Part of the reforms included in the white paper, and since then approved by Parliament, dealt with accreditation of tertiary-level and research institutions, the establishment of new coordinating bodies such as the Supreme School Council, the National Council of Scientific Policy, and the National Parents' Board, among others. The establishment of these central, coordinating bodies reflects the objective of the Ministry to begin the process of decentralization and to move toward autonomy for educational institutions.

Finally, while research and institutional autonomy are the focus of the reforms at the tertiary level, secondary education similarly is undergoing enormous changes. On the structural level, although changes have been implemented, they are peripheral in comparison to those calling for rethinking the entire philosophy, aims, and objectives of the system.

Finance

Public expenditure on education was approximately 7% of the GNP during 1993, a 2.5% increase since 1988. The percentage was equal to that for public health. Funding for education continues to be public, provided by the Ministry of Education and Science, by other ministries, and also from local budgets through community councils.

Classroom size is approximately 18 to 26 students, and special classes for gifted children are not larger than 13 students. (See Table 2.2, "Secondary Education: Staffing, Enrollments, and Expenditures," for additional information on factors considered in determining public expenditures on secondary education in Bulgaria after 1990-1991.)

Structure of the System

The system of education is currently organized to provide the following educational stages:

Preprimary education (for children between 3 and 6 or 7 years of age).

Basic or primary education (8 years of compulsory schooling for all children) divided into: junior education (grades 1-4) and presecondary education (grades 5-8).

Secondary education (4 or 5 years of schooling, grades 9 through 12 or 13).

Higher education (2 or more years of study) offered by non-university semi-higher institutes (2- to 3.5-year programs) and universities or higher institutes (4 or more years of study).

Types of Schools

In an attempt to decentralize the system of education, the basic types of schools are now being designated as follows: state-owned, municipal, and private. Private education is a new phenomenon in Bulgaria, marking a major departure from pre-1990 state policy that forbade its development at all levels of education. Private secondary schools were established in Bulgaria after 1990. Children studying in private schools pay fees for their education and the amount is determined by the individual institution. The state, however has financial responsibility for school materials for all students until they complete the compulsory cycle of education. Although these schools are autonomous, they are under the control of the Ministry of Education

Table 2.2 Secondary Education: Staffing, Enrollments, and Expenditures (1990-1991 School Year)

Educational Level	Students	Teachers	Teachers Per 100 Students
1. Schools Of General Academic Education (SOUs)			
A) Primary Grades 1-4	335,306	28,392	8.5
B) Primary Grades 5-8	622,735	42,475	6.8
C) Secondary Grades 9-12	152,665	9,873	6.5
2. Vocational Schools			
A) Vocational-Technical Schools (PTUs) Course 1-3	2,631	64	2.4
B) Secondary "Professional"/Technical (SPTUs) Course 1-3	113,139	6,602	5.8
C) *Tekhnikums* (Technical Schools) Course 1-4	125,728	10,865	8.6

3. Number Of School Days: 158 to 170

4. Number Of School Classes: 658 to 972

5. Financial Provisions In The 1991 Budget (Excluding Inflation): 2,300,000 Bulgarian *Levas*

6. English Language Teachers: 1,200

Source: Ministry Of Education, Bulgaria

in terms of licenses to operate and curricula taught. Finally, given that private education is an entirely new phenomenon, currently in existence for less than 3 years, it is very difficult to predict its future or even to attempt to assess its present status.

Academic Year

The academic year for primary and secondary education in Bulgaria consists of 158 to 170 school days and runs from mid-September through the end of May, or in some cases the middle of June. During 1990-1991 a 5-day school week was introduced. The academic year for tertiary-level institutions runs from mid-September to the end of June.

The language of instruction is Bulgarian, although primary school children of ethnic minorities are taught their mother tongue in special classes.

Grading

The grading system used is the same for all levels: 1 to 6, with 6 the highest mark and 3 the minimum passing mark.

6- ***Otlichen*** (excellent)
5- ***Mnogo dobur*** (very good)
4- ***Dobur*** (good)
3- ***Sreden*** (sufficient)
2- ***Slab*** (poor)
1- ***Losh*** (bad)

Grade promotion is on the basis of continuous assessment during the course of the academic year. The mark distribution for the *sredno obrazovanie* (secondary level of education) provided by the Ministry of Education and Science, Department of Secondary Education, is as follows: 6 (8%), 5 (34.5% to 35.5%), 4 (34.5% to 35.5%), 3 (15%), 2 (5% to 8%), 1 (1% to 4%).

Adult Education

The Law on School Education in the Republic of Bulgaria provides that "everyone may exercise his right to education regardless of age." Citizens above compulsory school age (14-15 years) have the right to study in the evening, part-time, by correspondence, and in an individual form of education. Education in all these forms is free of charge at institutions organized and maintained by state or municipal authorities:

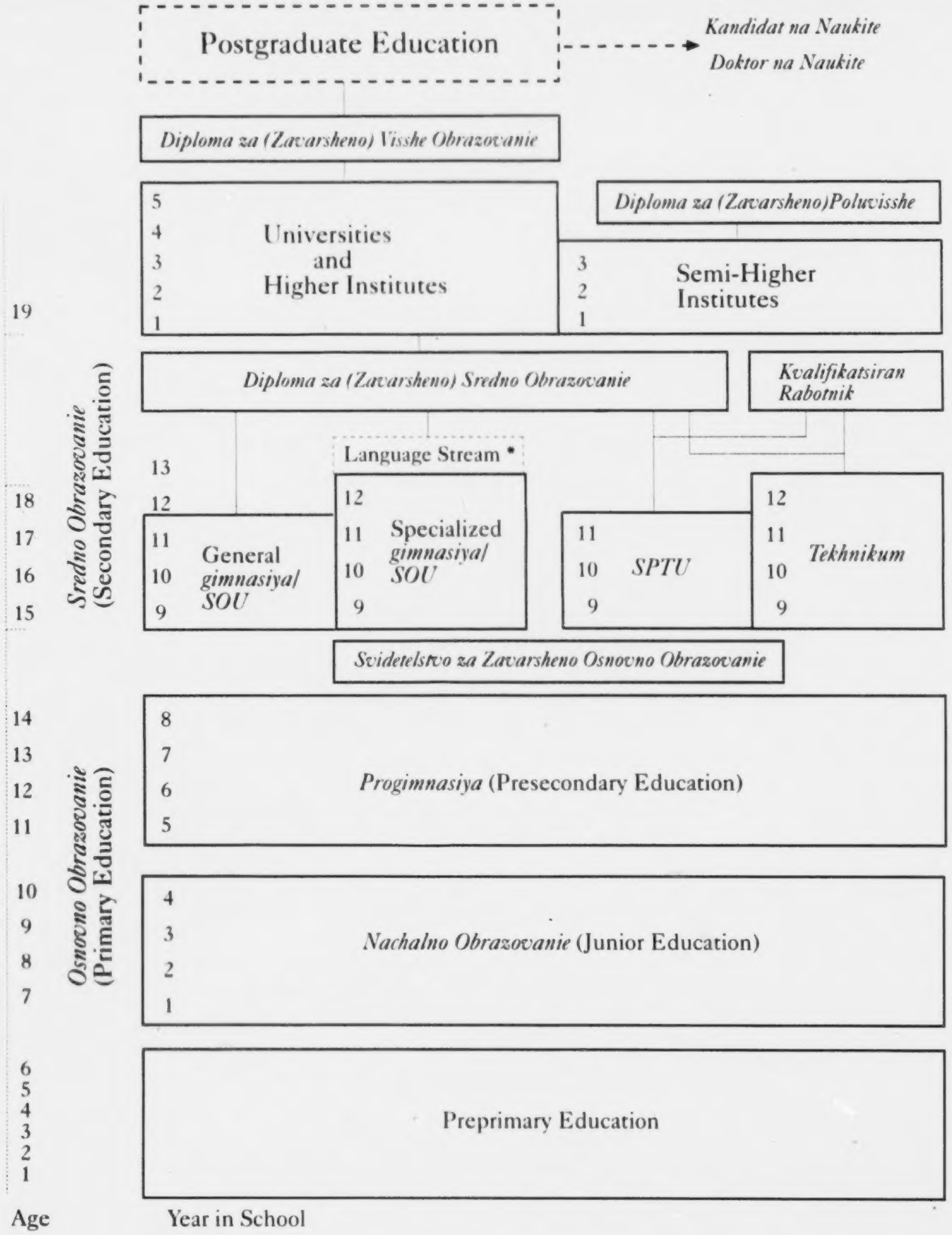
Evening education is lecture-based for working individuals who have interrupted their study.

Part-time education is based on partial attendance at lectures. It is a combination of day education and individual education, e.g., individuals may interrupt their work for certain periods of time.

Education by Correspondence is not lecture-based. Students receive the necessary materials and assignments by correspondence. Upon completion of the educational level they sit for the matriculation examinations.

Individual education consists entirely of independent study with periodic consultations provided by the schools. Examinations at all levels are prepared, administered, and graded by the schools.

Bulgarian Educational System Structure (beginning 1990)


Postgraduate Education
Kandidat na Naukite
Doktor na Naukite
Diploma za (Zavarsheno) Visshe Obrazovanie
Diploma za (Zavarsheno)Poluvisshe
5
4
3
2
1
Universities and Higher Institutes
3
2
1
Semi-Higher Institutes
19
Diploma za (Zavarsheno) Sredno Obrazovanie
Kvalifikatsiran Rabotnik
Language Stream *
Sredno Obrazovanie (Secondary Education)
13
12
11
10
9
General gimnasiya/SOU
Specialized gimnasiya/SOU
SPTU
Tekhnikum
18
17
16
15
Svidetelstvo za Zavarsheno Osnovno Obrazovanie
14
13
12
11
8
7
6
5
Progimnasiya (Presecondary Education)
Osnovno Obrazovanie (Primary Education)
10
9
8
7
4
3
2
1
Nachalno Obrazovanie (Junior Education)
6
5
4
3
2
1
Preprimary Education
Age
Year in School

* Proposed

Educational System Structure figure by Caroline Aldrich-Langen and Braintree
Source: Adapted from Bulgarian Ministry of Science and Education material

Chapter 3
Preprimary, Primary, and Secondary Education

Preprimary Education

Preprimary education for children between ages 3 and 6 or 7 years is provided by creches (*detski yasli*) and kindergartens (*detski gradini*). Attendance is voluntary in either case. Preprimary and kindergarten teachers are trained primarily at 2-year semi-higher teacher training institutes (*poluvisshi uchitelski instituti*).

Creches function primarily as day care centers for infants (children under 3 years of age) of working parents. Day-long kindergartens are attended for 12 hours a day by children whose parents are at work. The aim of the system at this stage is not to teach children to read or write, but to learn from oral instruction only. The only exception is Bulgarian language preparatory classes for children of ethnic minorities whose mother tongue is other than Bulgarian, that is, Turkish, Armenian, or the Romany language of the gypsies.

Kindergarten education is part of the national system of education but is not compulsory. Although a voluntary minimal fee has always been charged, since 1989 the amount has increased substantially and is now required. As a result, the number of children attending kindergartens has decreased. An additional reason for the rather low attendance is the limited number of kindergartens. This type of education remains largely an urban phenomenon.

Primary and Secondary Education—Pre 1990

Primary and secondary education was provided in the unified or general polytechnical school (*edinno sredno politekhnichesko uchilishte/ESPU*), an 11-year polytechnic institution. The *ESPU* served as a mass educational institution for the majority of Bulgarian children from grades 1 through 11. The aim and philosophy of the system was to provide students with general and polytechnical education combined with fundamental moral, physical, and aesthetic training. In the general education component, particular emphasis was placed on the natural and mathematical sciences as well as on the humanities. Most importantly, however, the aim of polytechnical education from the first grade on was to link education with labor, including summer practical training, patterned after the Soviet paradigm. Thus, labor and production subjects were offered during primary and secondary levels of education. In addition, vocational technical training was provided by institutions specifically designed for this form of education—*SPTUs*, *tekhnikum*, and *PTUs*. The number of students enrolled in these schools during the 1980s was approximately 25% of the total student enrollment.

Primary Education

Primary education (*Osnovno Obrazovanie*) was compulsory for all children ages 7 to 15, and lasted 8 years. This level of education was organized into two stages: grades 1 to 3 offered at primary schools (*nachalno uchilishte*), and grades 4 to 8 offered at intermediate schools (*progimnasiya*). Instruction in grades 1 to 3 consisted of approximately 22-23 hours of weekly instruction for a total of 32 weeks. It consisted of Bulgarian language, simple arithmetic, knowledge of the motherland, art, physical education, and polytechnical learning (related to labor and production). Instruction in grades 4 to 8 consisted of approximately 24 to 30 hours of instruction weekly for a total of 34 weeks. In addition to the above, the curriculum included physics, chemistry, Russian, a western language, biology, history, and geography. Promotion and/or graduation was determined by the teachers on the basis of continuous assessment during the academic year and did not require a final examination. Students completing the 8-year primary/intermediate cycle were awarded the *Svidetelstvo za Zavarsheno Osnovno Obrazovanie* (Certificate of Completed Primary Education).

Secondary Education

Students completing the 8-year primary cycle of education could continue their studies in one of the following four types of secondary education (*Sredno Obrazovanie*) institutions:

Unified or general polytechnical schools (*Edinno sredno politekhnichesko uchilishte/ESPU*)
Secondary "professional"/technical schools (*Sredno profesionalno tekhnichesko uchilishte/SPTU*)
Technical schools (*Tekhnikum*)
Professional technical schools (*Profesionalno-tekhnichesko uchilishte/PTU*)

Unified or general polytechnical schools (*Edinno sredno politekhnichesko uchilishte/ESPU*)- There were three types of *ESPU*s: general (including mathematics), foreign language, and fine and performing arts.

The first type of general education polytechnical school was the gymnasium (*gimnasiya*). Gymnasium programs were instituted in the 1930s, abolished in 1952, and reinstituted with the reforms that began in 1990. They were university-preparatory in nature; their aim was to provide students with a high level of general education and intensive polytechnical training at the same time. Admission required the successful completion of written examinations in mathematics and the Bulgarian language.

Students received approximately 30 hours of weekly instruction (a total of approximately 34 weeks for the academic year) in the same subjects taught during the previous stage. Emphasis was placed on the teaching of Bulgarian philology and history, mathematics, and physical and natural sciences, as well as polytechnical training. Upon completion, students who had no grade lower than 3 during grade 11 could sit for a series of final examinations (oral and written) in five subjects (e.g., mathematics, Bulgarian language and history, Russian, physics, and chemistry). Students successfully completing the examinations were awarded the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie/DZSO* (Diploma of Completed Secondary Education), which qualified the holder to sit for university entrance examinations. Before 1974 the *DZSO* was known as the *Zrelostno Svidetelstvo* (Maturity Certificate). Students with no mark lower than 3 during the entire secondary cycle of education were exempted from the examinations, with the exception of the written parts in mathematics and in the Bulgarian language. Students who opted not to sit for the examinations or failed them were awarded a *Svidetelstvo* (Certificate) of completion of study. This credential enabled the holder to study at a trade school for lower-level or middle-level technicians.

Foreign language polytechnical schools were a second type of *ESPU*, established after World War II. The main objective was the training of specialists in Russian and in several Western languages, primarily English, German, and French. Students were admitted to these schools on the basis of competitive examinations. The program of study lasted 5 years after completion of grade 7, except for those schools using Russian as the language of instruction, where courses were of 4 years' duration. The first year was devoted to preparatory study in the chosen language of instruction, followed by 4 years of regular secondary school (3 in the schools using Russian as the language of instruction). The curriculum was generally similar to that of the general polytechnical schools, with the exception that most of the curricular material used and most of the instruction and classroom discussions were in the foreign language of the school. Graduates of this type of school were awarded the same *DZSO* diploma as those who were completing the general polytechnical schools.

The third type of *ESPU*, Polytechnical Schools of Fine and Performing Arts, provided training in music, ballet, and the plastic arts. Admission followed completion of primary education and was on the basis of audition. The program of study at the secondary specialized music schools lasted 4 years, for a total of 12 years of study, and students were instructed in theory of music and various aspects of performance in addition to the general education component. Training in the plastic arts was also provided by *gimnasiya*, which offered a 4-year program of study. Successful graduates of these programs were awarded the *DZSO* and could continue their studies in tertiary-level institutes of fine arts.

Secondary "professional"/technical schools (*Sredno profesionalno tekhnichesko uchilishte/SPTU*)- The *SPTU*s, established during the academic year 1965-1966, trained students in certain skilled occupations that required polytechnical instruction and general education. Technical education was obligatory during the entire 3-year period in areas of technology (mechanical, electrical, construction, metallurgical, transportation, communications, chemical), agriculture, commerce, and office training, among others. Admission required completion of grade 8, and the program of study was generally 3 years (or longer). Although the emphasis of *SPTU* programs was on technical education, the number of hours devoted to general education was indeed considerable, and the curriculum included Bulgarian history, language, and literature; mathematics; physics; chemistry; and physical education. Yearly promotion was on the basis of performance during the course of the academic year.

Upon completion of the program, students were required to sit for the written and oral maturity examinations in the Bulgarian language and in mathematics, and a qualifying examination in the particular area of technical specialization. Successful candidates were awarded the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie/DZSO* (Diploma of Completed Secondary Education) and a certificate '*Kvalifikatsiran Rabotnik*' ('Qualified Worker'). The certificate of qualification entitled the holder to enter the workforce in the area of specialization. Students completing *SPTU* programs were eligible for admission into tertiary-level institutions.

Technical school (*Tekhnikum*)- Another type of school that provided technical education was the *tekhnikum*, designed to train intermediate-level technicians in certain areas of industry such as construction, agriculture, transportation, commerce, and the medical fields. Admission to a *tekhnikum* program was open to students who had completed primary or secondary education. For day students, the length of the program was 2 or 4 years, depending on the cycle of education previously completed. For evening and extramural students, the length of the program was 3 or 5 years depending on the cycle of education previously completed. Thus, graduates of 8 years of primary education were admitted into 4-year *tekhnikum* programs that, in addition to the vocational training, incorporated general education courses corresponding to those taught by polytechnical schools. The general education component comprised one-third of the entire program of study. Graduates of 12-year general secondary polytechnical schools who wished to specialize in a vocational course were able to complete the program in 2 years, having been exempted from the entire general education component of the curriculum. This route was pursued by students who were not admitted to tertiary institutions.

In order to graduate from a *tekhnikum*, students had to pass the oral and written maturity examinations in Bulgarian and in mathematics. In addition, during the final year of the *tekhnikum* course, students either sat for a State examination or submitted a project dealing with a problem in the particular area of specialization. Finally, all *tekhnikum* graduates had to complete a period of practical training in their particular area. Upon successful completion of all the requirements, a *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie/DZSO* was awarded along with the *Udostostoverenie za Poluvissha Tekhnicheska Praktika* (Certificate of Qualification as a Technician) in the area of specialization. *Tekhnikum* graduates were eligible for admission to all tertiary institutions, with most continuing their education in the area of their specialization; 15% of all graduates were admitted into higher technical institutes. Graduates were also eligible to enter the labor market in the profession as a trained qualified worker.

Professional technical schools (*Profesionalno-Tekhnichesko Uchilishte/PTU*)- These schools operated at the level of trade schools, and were designed to train skilled workers for industry and agriculture. The *PTU*s provided vocational training at a lower level than the secondary professional/technical schools (*SPTU*s) and the *tekhnikums*. They either operated independently or were attached to a *tekhnikum* or specific branches of industry and agriculture. Admission to these schools required completion of primary education (8 years of schooling). The duration of the course of study was 1 or 2 years of study, according to the type of training, with emphasis on the development of practical skills rather than general education. Upon completion, students were awarded a *Svidetelstvo* (Certificate) indicating completion of vocational training, which was a terminal award and gave access to employment only.

Due to the nature of the program, there was no articulation between *PTU* programs and other forms of technical education (*SPTU* and *Tekhnikum*). Thus, *PTU* graduates wishing to continue their education could only apply for admission into *SPTU*s and *Tekhnikums* and had to complete the entire cycle of education. Although during the 1960s and early 1970s the *PTU*s served as one of the most popular means for vocational training, they have been gradually phased out since the late 1970s.

Primary and Secondary Education—Proposed Beginning In 1990

Primary Education

Primary education (*Osnovno Obrazovanie*), which is compulsory and free, lasts 8 years for all children between ages 6 and 14-15. It is divided into two stages of 4 years each, junior education and presecondary. Children are enrolled at age 6 or 7 according to their parents' wishes, although age 7 is closer to the norm. The schools operate on a 5-day week for a total of 180 days of instruction. In view of the limited number of schools, classes are offered both in the morning and in the afternoon. Evening schools offer programs of study for employed individuals.

Junior Education (*Nachalno Obrazovanie*)- Students in grades 1 through 4 receive approximately 22-25 hours of weekly instruction, consisting of the systematic teaching of reading and writing, basic arithmetic, natural and social sciences, and arts. (See Table 3.1.) According to the objectives defined by the Ministry of Education and Science, during this stage special attention is paid to the physical and aesthetic growth of the children as well as to the acquisition of technical skills. All subjects are taught by one teacher only, except art and physical education, which are taught by different teachers. First grade students obtain an average mark at the end of the academic year, and students in grades 2 to 4 are awarded marks only at the end of the year. Upon completion of junior education the *Svidetelstvo za Zabvoorshen Klas IV* (Certificate of Completion of Grade 4) is awarded.

Table 3.1 Standard Curriculum: General Academic Education, Primary & Secondary (SOU)

Grade in School	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Primary								(without professional preparation)		(with professional preparation)	
Hours per Week	31	32	32	34	34	34	34	34	36	36	30	30
Block A: General Compulsory Instruction												
1. Bulgarian Language and Literature	8	8	7	7	6	5	5	5	4	3	4	3
2. Russian Language	-	-	-	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2*	-
3. Western Language	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	3	2	2	2*	-
4. Mathematics	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	-	-
5. Computer Science	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
6. Physical and Chemical Phenomena	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Physics and Astronomy	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3/2	2	1†	1
8. Chemistry	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3/2	2	-	-
9. Knowledge of Nature	-	-	1	1/2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Biology	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	-	-
11. Knowledge of Motherland	1	1	1	2/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. History	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-
13. Geography	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	0/2	2	-	-
14. Psychology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
15. Ethics and Philosophy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
16. Fine Arts	2/1	2/1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1/0	-	-
17. Music	1/2	1/2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0/1	-	-
18. Physical Culture	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	2	2
19. Working-polytechnical Training	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-
Total Block A:	20	20	22	24	27	28	30	30	28	28	12	9
Block B: Elective Compulsory Instruction												
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	13	16
Total Blocks A+B	20	20	22	24	27	28	30	30	30	30	25	25
Block C: Optional Instruction												
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4

* In the 11th grade the students are required to study one foreign language - Russian or western by choice.

† The school hour noted for physics and astronomy in the 11th grade is planned for astronomy, but it is to be introduced in academic 1991/1992 year.

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Presecondary Education (*Progimnasiya*)- Students in grades 5 through 8 receive approximately 30 hours of weekly instruction. Since all subjects are taught by subject specialists, each subject is taught by a different teacher. It is during this stage that students are introduced to more systematic and sequential knowledge in Bulgarian language and history, mathematics, natural and physical as well as social sciences, and art. The study of a foreign language is also introduced in grade 5 (see Table 3.1). Promotion is on the basis of performance during the course of the academic year. Upon completion of grade 8, students must sit for the primary education examinations in the Bulgarian language and mathematics. Upon successful completion of the 8-year cycle, the *Svidetelstvo za Zavarsheno Osnovno Obrazovanie* (Certificate of Completed Primary Education) is awarded.

The majority of students who complete the primary cycle of education continue their education at the secondary level. Only 15% to 18% of grade 8 graduates do not pursue further studies. Furthermore, the Ministry intends to increase compulsory education to include grade 9 for all children up to age 16.

Secondary Education

Structural Reforms- In March of 1990 the new government reestablished the *gimnasiya*, which previously existed as part of the *ESPU*, as general academic secondary schools. This type of school, classic and *real gimnasiya* patterned after the German and French secondary school, had been abolished in 1952. The unified or general polytechnical school (*edinno sredno politekhnichesko uchilishte/ESPU*) has been reestablished as the secondary school for general education (*sredno obshtoo obrazovatelno uchilishte/SOU*). It currently provides 11 to 12 years of general education with optional vocational/technical training during the eleventh year. The length of secondary level study is 3 to 4 years beyond completion of primary education. However, the Ministry of Education and Science intends to increase the required length of study to 4 to 5 years in the future. Technical and vocational education is still provided by the secondary "professional"/technical schools (*sredno profesionalno tekhnichesko uchilishte/SPTU*). Thus, as a result of the reforms there are currently three types of institutions available: *gimnasiya*, *SOU*, and the *SPTU*. Finally, while the *tekhnikum* still provides technical training, its future has not yet been determined by the Ministry.

In summary, as of 1993 students completing the 8-year primary/intermediate cycle of education could continue their education in one of the following types of institutions:

General education school (*Sredno obshtoo obrazovatelno uchilishte/SOU*) incorporating the gymnasium (*gimnasiya*), both of which provide general and specialized academic training

Secondary "professional"/technical school (*Sredno profesionalno tekhnichesko uchilishte/SPTU*), which provides technical education

Technical school (*Tekhnikum*), future uncertain

Teachers at this level of education are trained at pedagogical institutes or universities. However, university qualifications are required for teachers of general education subjects (see Chapter 5, Teacher Training).

Proposals for the future are that secondary education will be provided by only two types of schools and programs, general academic (the *SOU*'s) and technical (the *SPTU*'s), both of which will be highly specialized and university preparatory.

Articulation- According to the Law on School Education, articulation between the different types of institutions exists. However, because of the specialized nature of the programs, students must sit for special examinations if, for example, they wish to transfer from *tekhnikum* to *gimnasiya* programs.

Curricular Reforms- According to the July 1992 National Report of the Republic of Bulgaria on the Development of Education, the secondary curriculums are structured into three basic blocks:

Block A: General Compulsory Instruction includes the necessary and sufficient minimum knowledge in sciences and culture and humanities that every student in a Bulgarian school should acquire. At the secondary level, this block constitutes from 50% to 80% of the compulsory weekly program. The general compulsory instruction block is determined by the Ministry and is compulsory for every school curriculum regardless of the kind of school and level of education. This block is essential for the award of the respective credential upon completion of the level or stage of education. Furthermore, this block, with a permissible reduction of 20%, should also be present in the curriculum of independent (private) schools. Only under this condition do the private schools have the right to award the *DZSO*.

Block B: Compulsory Elective Instruction provides for specialization at the secondary level of education and is implemented in three variants.

First Variant: to prepare for further study at the tertiary level in specific subjects, secondary students choose 3 or 4 subjects from Block A and may sit for additional maturity examinations in those subjects, in addition to the compulsory maturity examinations (Bulgarian language and mathematics). These students receive the *DZSO*.

Second Variant: certain streams in a school specialize in distinct fields of science and culture, e.g., natural sciences and mathematics, humanities, languages, sports, art, and so forth. In these classes students receive systematic instruction in the field of specialization at a level high enough to give them the opportunity to continue their education in this field. The students sit for matriculation examinations in two of the main subjects of the specialization and in the two compulsory subjects. The specialization is recorded on the *DZSO*.

Third Variant: entire secondary schools specialize in certain fields. Typical are secondary schools specializing in science and mathematics with further specializations in physics, chemistry, and biology, and language schools with further specializations in foreign languages. Professional (technical) secondary schools are of the same type, where, in addition to the general compulsory instruction (Block A), students acquire training in technology, economics, agriculture, etc. Students in these schools sit for exams that lead to the award of the *DZSO*, and also receive the *Udostoverenie za Poluvissha Tekhnicheska Praktika*. It is this block that provides the flexibility of the curriculum and determines the specific features of secondary education.

Block C: Optional Instruction provides for the fulfillment of individual interests and needs of students. Until recently this type of instruction was regulated by the Ministry, but now is left entirely to the schools. Different subjects and activities can be included in this block, and instruction can take place either in the school or outside. In the schools with specialized education this block can serve to broaden and deepen the specialization.

Academic Secondary Education

General academic secondary education- Admission to the *SOUs* and *gimnasiya* is on the basis of the certificate of completed primary education. Students attending this type of school, which extends from grades 9 through 11, obtain general knowledge and cover what the Ministry has prescribed as the required educational minimum. The subjects offered are: Bulgarian; a foreign language; mathematics (grades 9-11); computer science (grades 10-11); physics, astronomy, chemistry, and biology (grades 9-10); history and geography (grades 9-10); psychology (grade 10); ethics and philosophy (grade 11); music (grades 9-10); and physical education and technology (grades 9-10). In grade 11 students may choose to study a technical subject from one of the following options: machine operator, construction worker, or electrician. In addition, they have the option to select two to four subjects that must be studied in detail (one or two in grades 9 and 10, and at least three in grade 11) chosen from sociology, logic, law, and aesthetics. (See Table 3.1.)

Specialized academic secondary education- Another type of secondary education offered at *gimnasiya* and *SOU*s is specialized and university-preparatory in nature. The length of the program is 4 years (grades 9 to 12), and students can specialize in the following streams: science (physics, chemistry, and mathematics), humanities, languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Far Eastern, and Oriental), art, and sports. Admission follows completion of the primary cycle of education. Students who wish to study in the language stream may also be admitted upon completion of grade 7. The length of the program is 5 years, the first being preparatory. In addition, to be admitted to these programs special examinations are required in the subject of specialization. In the subjects of their particular stream, students undertake a more intensive program, both in depth and in breadth, while for the rest of the subjects they cover the ordinary required minimum.

Secondary "Professional"/Technical Education

The educational reforms beginning in 1990 did not affect the *Sredno Profesionalno Tekhnichesko Uchilishte/SPTUs*, which continue to provide technical education to Bulgarian youth. Admission to this type of school is on the basis of the certificate of completed primary education; the length of the program is 3 years. Students in the professional/technical programs follow the minimum prescribed course of general education and, at the same time, they are trained in the chosen area of technical specialization (see Table 3.2).

Tekhnikum

In 1993 the Ministry had not yet decided on the future of the *tekhnikum*. Students continue to obtain general academic knowledge as well as professional/technical education through *tekhnikum* programs. The length of the program is still 4 years, or 2 years for students who have completed a 12-year primary-secondary program, and, upon completion, students can either pursue tertiary education or enter the labor market in the trained profession as qualified workers (see Table 3.3).

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The *Matura* and Secondary Credentials

In both the pre-1990 system and the proposed system beginning in 1990, the secondary level of education concludes with written and oral matriculation examinations (*matura*) . The examinations are offered from the end of May through approximately the third week of June. Students are examined in Bulgarian language and literature as well as one subject in the area of specialization, or theory and practice in a selected area of technical education if the student has completed that program during grade 11. Students with an average school mark of very good (5.0) in Bulgarian language and literature are exempted from the *matura*.

The *matura* questions are set by the Ministry and received by the school one day prior to the examinations. Examination papers are graded by a commission consisting of two teachers. The *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie/DZSO* (Diploma of Completed Secondary Education) or the *Diploma za Sredno Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Secondary Education) is awarded to students who successfully complete the examinations or are exempted from them, regardless of the type of school attended (see Appendix B, Documents 1 and 2). In addition to the *DZSO*, students who complete technical education during grade 11, or complete an *SPTU* or *tekhnikum* program, receive on their diploma certificate the notation "*Kvalifikatsiran Rabotnik*" ("Qualified Worker") or *Udostoverenie za Poluvissha Tekhnicheska Praktika.* Similarly, for students who complete the specialized programs of study, the area of specialization/stream is noted on the *DZSO*. Prior to 1974 the *DZSO* was known as the *Zrelostno Svidetelstvo* [Maturity Certificate]).

The diploma is awarded directly by the school but always under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Science, which is responsible for issuing the diploma number. The *DZSO* gives access to tertiary institutions.

Table 3.2 Standard Secondary "Professional"/Technical School Program/SPTU

Grade in Upper Secondary School		1		2		3		Total Hours
Weeks in Term Per Grade		18	18	18	18	18	13	
	Block A: General Compulsory Instruction							
1.	Bulgarian Language and Literature	3	3	3	3	2	2	278
2.	Russian Language	1	1	-	-	-	-	36
3.	Western Language	1	2	-	-	-	-	54
4.	History	2	2	2	2	-	-	144
5.	Geography	2	2	-	-	-	-	72
6.	Philosophy	-	-	-	-	2	-	36
7.	Mathematics	3	3	3	3	2	2	278
8.	Physics	3	2	-	-	-	-	90
9.	Chemistry	2	2	-	-	-	-	72
10.	Biology	2	2	-	-	-	-	72
11.	Physical Education	2	2	2	2	2	2	206
	Total Block A=	21	21	10	10	8	6	1338
	Block B: Compulsory Elective Instruction	9	9	18	18	20	22	1618
	Block C: Optional Instruction *	-	-	2	2	2	2	134
	Block D: Production Practice		-	-	-	3	30	90
	Total A+B+C+D=	30	30	30	30	30	30	3180
	Block E: Facultative/Optional Training	4	4	4	4	4	4	412

* (Academic subjects selected from general compulsory instruction and professional training, computer science, ethics, law, sociology, psychology, industrial esthetics, industrial design, fine arts, and music)

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table 3.3 Standard Tekhnikum Program

Grade in Upper Secondary School	1		2		3		4		Total Hours
Weeks in Term Per Grade	18	18	18	18	18	18	17	18	
Block A: General Compulsory Instruction									
1. Bulgarian Language and Literature	3	3	3	3	2	2	-	-	286
2. Russian Language	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
3. Western Language	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
4. History	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	144
5. Geography	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
6. Philosophy	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	34
7. Mathematics	3	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	321
8. Physics	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	144
9. Chemistry	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
10. Biology	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
11. Physical Education	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	276
Total Block A=	22	22	12	12	7	9	2	2	1565
Block B: Compulsory Elective Instruction	8	8	16	16	20	19	26	26	2353
Block C: Optional Instruction*	-	-	2	2	3	2	2	2	222
Block D: Production Practice				-	2x30		3x30		150
Total A+B+C+D=	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	4320
Block E: Facultative/Optional Training	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	522

* (Academic subjects selected from general compulsory instruction and professional training, computer science, ethics, law, sociology, psychology, industrial esthetics, industrial design, fine arts, and music)

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

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Chapter 4
Higher Education

Recent History

In 1939 Bulgaria had five institutions of higher education with seven faculties and 10,169 students enrolled. Bulgaria was at that time among the European countries with the lowest rate of participation in higher education. After World War II the number of higher education institutions began to rise, and the post-war government should be credited with ensuring that young people who were children of workers and poor farmers were admitted to universities along with war veterans and others.

In the 1950s, the number of higher education institutions rose to 20. The highest body established by the Ministry of Education was the Supreme Council of Education which had authority over all ministries, central departments, and people's councils. Also significant at this time was the establishment of a Higher Commission for the Certification of Diplomas. This state body centralized requirements for scientific degrees and teaching staff. Prior to 1953 only centralized professional higher education institutions existed. There was one State Polytechnic Institute with branches, and one medical academy. In 1953, the polytechnic institute divided into four separate institutions, one of them the V.I. Lenin Institute of Electronic Engineering.

Gradually, the total scope of higher education became more rigidly controlled as the Ministry of Education and Science sought to instill an appreciation for Communist thinking into all branches of education. Study of the Russian language became mandatory. The Ministry of Public Health was placed totally in charge of the Medical Academy and its branches. It also became the sole employer of medical school and allied health graduates. The National Agrarian and Industrial Union took charge of agriculture and veterinary medicine. The centrally appointed Committee for Culture assumed control of the country's artistic higher education institutions.

With centralized control of all aspects of education by the party and the State, the overall curriculum, including that of higher education, tended to be narrowly focused, with the emphasis on technical training, and designed to meet the needs of the workforce as determined by the party. Numerous semi-higher and higher institutes prepared young people for a role in the technological development of the country. Specialized institutions flourished, while the three traditional comprehensive universities continued to grow.

Research was encouraged in the higher education institutes as well as the universities. Each institution developed an affiliation featuring cooperative agreements with similar types of institutions in other, mostly Communist, countries.

Proposals for Higher Education Beginning in 1990

Since 1990 many changes have taken place in the educational system of Bulgaria. The general process of democratization of society, the discarding of Communist ideology, and the attempts to establish a market economy have had a profound effect on the role of education. The Law of Autonomy of 1990 gave institutions the freedom to join their fellow institutions in western Europe as places of intellectual inquiry. Unfortunately, the finances necessary for growth and change are in short supply and there is very little development of the physical plant in Bulgaria at the present time. Not only are very few new facilities being built, but also there is little cash flow for the remodeling of existing structures.

An immediate, notable change in the curriculum has been the decreased emphasis on teaching the Russian language. Within 2 years its use on campuses diminished and it went from a required subject to an elective seldom chosen. English has become the language of choice with German, French, and Spanish also growing in popularity.

The strong math-science orientation of the educational system inherited from the Soviet Union continues. However, even here there has been a decline in the number of people interested in various branches of engineering and medicine, and an increased interest in the humanities.

From 1990 to the present, higher education has been under intense scrutiny. With their new autonomy many institutions have begun to take advantage of the opportunities for change. For some this has meant seeking university status, which they have tried to accomplish merely by changing their names. However, as of spring 1993 the Ministry of Education and Science had not recognized the new names, although some of the institutions themselves may already be using stationery and other promotional materials that reflect university status.

Since 1990 the principal innovations in higher education are:

1. Global aims—a new concept for Bulgarian educators.
2. Giving students more voice in developing the alternatives for education.
3. The development of individuality.
4. Preparation for a healthy lifestyle through mental, physical, and social development.
5. Adoption of universal and national values that respect the laws, language, and culture of others.

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

A major concern in Bulgaria has been the retraining of many Russian language teachers. When retrained to teach other academic subjects, these teachers will be permitted to remain in the system and proceed toward retirement benefits.

Bulgarian higher education credentials are recognized internationally. In 1980, Bulgaria signed the Paris Convention for the European countries, a document that guaranteed recognition of its academic diplomas in western European countries. Also, Bulgaria has signed in excess of 20 bilateral conventions for mutual recognition of diplomas, mainly with the developing countries from which many of its international students come.

Administration

Since 1990, the educational system of Bulgaria has been under the direction of the Ministry of Education and Science, briefly known in 1992-1993 as the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture. The Ministry wields much control over funding and decision making in higher education. An exception is the field of medicine and all the allied health fields, which are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. The Council of Ministers approves the requirements for all diplomas awarded by state institutions of postsecondary education in Bulgaria.

Each local institution is administered by an organization of rectors, vice rectors, and deans of the various faculties. Faculties are subdivided into departments of study. Faculty members are ranked at one of eight levels (see below).

Currently, parliamentary recognition is the only legal instrument for universities to be recognized and incorporated into the Bulgarian system of education. A structure of accreditation in the North American sense does not exist. However, Bulgarian educators recently have considered models for implementing a system of accreditation and have even drafted a plan similar to the U.S. model. Whether or not it will be implemented in 1995, as proposed, remains to be seen.

Financing

Financing of higher education has traditionally been a part of the national budget. In allocating finaces to institutions, the long-range state socioeconomic plans were carefully calculated each year. Input came from the various provinces to those doing national level planning. The proposed education budget is assembled by the finance planning section of the Ministry of Education and Science and submitted to the Ministry for Finances. The education budget is one part of the total state budget submitted for approval to the Bulgarian National Assembly. Many of the technical institutions receive financial assistance from various factories, trusts, and enterprises related to the programs of instruction.

Traditionally, all higher education has been free. Some institutions have had a small percentage of tuition students, but the number is insignificant in the overall educational picture.

Since the Law of Autonomy of 1990 individual institutions have experienced increased freedom in making financial requests for their institutions and in seeking outside funding. They are also permitted to admit fee-paying students drawn from those who did not gain admission as government supported applicants but who meet admission requirements established by the institution.

Faculty Rank, Organization, and Academic Titles

Rather than the four ranks typically found in U.S. institutions, Bulgarians have eight ranks. The major ranks in higher education institutions are in the following descending order: full professor (*profesor*), docent (*dotsent*), chief assistant (*glaven asistent*), senior assistant (*starshi asistent*), assistant (*asistent*), senior lecturer (*starshi prepodavatel*), lecturer (*prepodavatel*), and junior lecturer (*mladchi prepodavatel*).

Those in higher institutions studying at the graduate level, often take part in the teaching process, covering some portion of the lectures and practical activities of undergraduate students.

Academics in higher education institutions in Bulgaria are organized into faculties, a parallel to colleges and schools in most U.S. institutions. Each faculty is then subdivided into various departments of study.

Types of Institutions

Higher education in Bulgaria is provided by semi-higher institutes, higher institutes and universities, and post-1990 new universities patterned after the U.S. model (for a list of postsecondary institutions see Appendix A). Private universities in the North American sense have not emerged. The long history of central control of all higher education development has, until recently, prevented the development of private higher institutions of learning .

Semi-Higher Institutes

Semi-higher institutes (*poluvisshi obrazovanie*) are supervised by the Ministry of Education and Science. They offer programs of study designed to prepare secondary school graduates for various professional and skilled positions identified by the national planning scheme. The *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Secondary Education) is required for admission to the semi-higher institutes.

Originally, the programs offered by the semi-higher institutes were 2 years in length. The majority of these, 73% in the mid-1980s, were devoted to the training of teachers. After 1985, considerable structural changes were made, with a sharp increase in semi-higher institutes devoted to technical programs. As these study programs evolved, additional semesters were added, extending the length of some of them to 2.5 and 3.5 years (see Table 4.1 for a specialized semi-higher institute curriculum). The diploma awarded at the end of the program is the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Semi-Higher Education), which is not considered to be of the same standard as a diploma from a higher institute or university.

The various types of semi-higher institutes include: technical (17, 2 of which are attached to higher institutes); pedagogical (12); medical and allied health (14); economics and management (1); tourism (2); librarianship (1); and communication (1). In 1990 a new semi-higher institute was established for the study of the Islamic religion. Semi-higher institutes are located throughout the country and train technicians, allied health workers including nurses, and librarians and primary school teachers, among others. Because they have trained teachers who have since been placed throughout the nation, the pedagogical institutes have contributed greatly to the high (95%) literacy rate of Bulgaria.

For most students, diplomas earned at semi-higher institutes are somewhat terminal in nature, and with diploma in hand, the graduate finds a niche in the workforce. It is possible to move on to higher institutes of education and the universities, but in the past this has seldom happened. Among the post-1990 reforms in postsecondary education is a proposal to tie the semi-higher institutes more closely to the higher institutes and universities and to facilitate transfer of students wishing to pursue further education

Universities

Before 1990 Bulgaria had three universities. Following the Law of Autonomy of 1990 many higher institutes changed their names to include the term "university" in their titles. The Ministry of Education and Science has not recognized the name changes, so they are still officially "higher institutes." In effect, there are still three traditional comprehensive universities in Bulgaria; Cyril and Methodius University in Veliko Turnovo, Kliment of Ohrid Sofia University (commonly called University of Sofia or Sofia University) and The Paissiy of Hilendar Plovdiv University (commonly called Plovdiv University). Each of these three major universities offers study in an array of areas at the undergraduate level. Prior to 1988 a degree in the U.S. sense did not exist. In the future terminology is likely to appear similar to that of Western Europe and the U.S. Traditionally, universities in Bulgaria have noted and still indicate titles or qualifications on the standard *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education), upon completion of the first stage of study (see "Academic Documentation" later in this chapter regarding diploma notations).

At the University of Sofia the diploma is awarded after 4 years of pedagogy study, and after 5 years in all other faculties. However, beginning in 1993 all faculties except law will require 4 years of study at the first stage. Programs of study at Plovdiv University and Cyril and Methodius University are also 4 to 5 years in length.

Higher Institutes

Programs at the higher institutes are more specialized than those offered by the universities. Other than that, there is little difference between the two sectors. Prior to the Autonomy Law of 1990

(continued overleaf)

Table 4.1 Curriculum at Semi-Higher Institute in Microelectronics at Botevgrad
Subject: Electrical Engineering on Electronics and Computers

Course	Lecture	Semester	Laboratory
Year 1 (Terms 1 and 2)			
Applied Mathematics	60		60
Applied Physics	45		30
Introduction to Computers	45		45
Programming	15	30	30
Engineering Drawing	15		30
Electrotechnics	75	45	30
Electronic Devices	60		45
English			60
Russian/German/French			30
History of Science and Technics/Engineering Ethics	30	15	
Practical Training on CAD/CAM Packages			180
Sports			60
Year 2 (Terms 3 and 4)			
Economics and Management	45	45	
Ecology	30	15	
Power Supplies		30	
Practical Training			180
Sports			60
Electronics			
Analog Electronic Circuits	75		75
Digital Electronic Circuits	75		75
Microelectronics	45	15	30
Microprocessors and Computers	45		45
Communication and Network Systems	45		45
Computers			
Components and Circuits for Computers	60	15	30
Logic Design Principles and Programmable Controllers	60		45
Program Systems and Languages	60	30	45
Computer Architecture	60	30	45
Microprocessors Embedded Systems	60	30	45
Year 3 (Terms 5 and 6)			
Sociology and Labor Law	30	30	
Sports			30
Practical Training on CAD/CAM			180
Electronics			
Electronic Measurement and Testing	45		45
Power Electronics	30		30
Electronic Systems for Automation	30		30
Specialization Training	145		145
Medical Electronics			
Industry Electronics			
Microelectronics			

the Ministry of Education and Science recognized the following numbers of higher institutes of education: teacher training institutes (2); institutes of engineering and technology (10); institutes of economics (3); institutes of health (5); institutes of agriculture and forestry (4); institutes of fine arts (4); institute of physical training (1); institute of communications (1); and institute for training of foreign students (1). These institutions are described in Appendix A. Some have changed their names to include the term "university" in their titles, and stationery and other documents may reflect the "new" name. However, the Ministry of Education and Science had not recognized any name changes at the time of this PIER workshop visit, so we have listed the higher institutes by their officially approved names as of May 1993.

Postsecondary Private Education

Since the democratization of Bulgaria began, three new private universities patterned after the U.S. model have been established and are experiencing rapid growth. The New Bulgarian University in Sofia, the Free University in Burgas, and the American University in Blagoevgrad were officially recognized as higher education institutions in September 1991 through an Act of Parliament. They like to emphasize that they have the freedom to make drastic changes immediately, whereas the traditional institutions move very slowly through their established bureaucracy to make changes.

The programs offered by these recently established universities have a very North American appearance, and can be viewed similarly. However, in some cases the credentials will follow the traditional Bulgarian format. An example is the professional qualification in political science that is awarded by the New Bulgarian University upon completion of a 2-year program following a minimum of 3 years of study in social sciences and the humanities elsewhere.

Because no degrees had been awarded by these universities at the time of this research, placement recommendations for their credentials are not being included in this volume. The contribution to Bulgaria of these institutions and their place in Bulgaria's overall scheme of education is yet to be determined.

Admission

The sexes have equal status in competing for entrance to higher education. The basic admission requirement is the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie/DZSO* (Diploma of Completed Secondary Education). Admission to the new American University in Blagoevgrad requires high scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test/SAT and the Test of English as a Foreign Language/TOEFL, in addition to the standard *DZSO*.

The entrance examination (*konkursen ispit*) is very important for admission to higher education in Bulgaria. All holders of the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie* may sit for the *konkursen ispit*. Candidates must apply and be registered for these entrance examinations. The *konkursen ispit* is very competitive and guarantees the three major universities top quality students for the limited spaces available. Some higher education institutions may require applicants to take examinations in two or three subjects. For admission to higher institutes of technology, applicants must take examinations in mathematics and Bulgarian history and culture.

The examination papers are graded without the grader knowing the applicants' names or other identifying information. The mathematics examination is graded on a six-point system, while the Bulgarian history and culture examination is graded on a pass-fail standard. Applicants to postsecondary institutions are ranked for admission purposes based on an index that reflects entrance examination results as well as the grades earned in secondary school subjects.

The *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education), awarded by higher institutes and universities after the first stage of study, serves as an admission requirement for the second stage. The *Kandidat na Naukite* (Candidate of Science), awarded after the second stage of study, serves as the admission requirement for the third stage of study, successful completion of which results in the *Doktor na Naukite*.

Academic Year

There is no typical academic year followed by Bulgarian institutions of higher education. Individual institutions have had much freedom in establishing their calendar. Two semesters of study seem to be the norm for the academic year, each consisting of 15-17 weeks. There is a special session of 4 weeks following each term, during which examinations are administered. One exception to the 2-semester pattern is the academic calendar at the Institute for Foreign Students, which has only one session lasting from October to June.

Structure and Credentials Awarded

Semi-Higher Institutes

Semi-higher institutes offered 2-year programs until very recently, when some programs were extended to 2.5 or 3.5 years in length. The programs are applied and highly specialized. Graduates of these institutes typically enter the work-force in their area of study, as the government provides jobs upon completion of the programs. Semi-higher institutions are supervised by the Ministry of Education and Science. The credential awarded upon satisfactory completion of the program is the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Semi-Higher Institute), sometimes referred to as the *Svidetelstvo za Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Certificate of Semi-Higher Institute), with the specialization or qualification noted on the document (e.g., *Uchitel* [teacher]). (See Appendix B, Documents 4a. and 4b.)

Although graduates of semi-higher institutions can move into study in the higher institutes and universities, only a small percentage actually do so. A complete listing of semi-higher institutions is found in Appendix A.

Universities and Higher Institutes

Both the higher institutes and the universities offer three stages of tertiary study. A direct parallel between the North American concept of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees cannot be made. Various Bulgarian institutions are expressing the desire to develop the western model for degree designations, but to date these changes have not been approved by the Ministry of Education and Science.

The first stage of study is roughly 4 to 5 years in length and very highly structured. Upon satisfactory completion of the program the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education) or the *Diploma za Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Higher Education) is awarded (see Appendix B, Document 5). Some of these diplomas, which are awarded to foreign students, may be translated as "Master of Arts" or "Master of Science." Regardless of how the diploma is translated, the academic program followed represents completion of the first stage of higher education in Bulgaria, the same course that leads to the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie*.

Students who have earned the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* may qualify for entrance to the second stage of study leading to the *Kandidat na Naukite* (Candidate of Science), also referred to as *Kandidat na* (field) *Nauki*, by successfully completing a series of competitive examinations in the field of specialization and a foreign language. They then proceed to conduct their research and prepare a dissertation under the guidance of a professor. This period of qualifying examinations and research, during which time the candidate is preparing a dissertation, is called the "study of the aspiring graduate (*aspirantura*)." The student may be referred to as graduate student *aspirant* (male) or *aspirantka* (female). The *aspiranti*, who are fulltime students, are awarded a fellowship for 3 years, during which time they are expected to complete their research and prepare and defend their dissertation. Part-time students must also pass the qualifying examinations but may conduct their research and prepare the dissertation while working. There is no limit to the time taken to complete the dissertation. In many cases, the part-time student will be employed as a junior researcher in a research group and will be guided by the professor in charge. *Aspiranti* are also expected to publish in a recognized international journal in the field as a prerequisite to defending the dissertation.

When the major professor judges the candidate to be prepared, application is made to appear at the next meeting of the national Scientific Council in the appropriate field of specialization, to defend the dissertation. The various scientific councils are each composed of doctors of science from across the country who are nominated by their institutions. Three independent referees are appointed by the panel to evaluate the dissertation and research before the Council meeting and to make a recommendation on the granting of the *Kandidat na Naukite*. The *aspirant* describes the research and answers questions posed by the Council and others attending the meeting, which is open to the public. The final decision is taken by a vote of the panel. The dissertation is then forwarded to the *Visshe Atestatsion Commissia/VAC* (Higher Attestation Commission) for final approval. This commission is composed of 30 members selected from all academic fields who are appointed by the Prime Minister to serve 5-year terms. The *Kandidat na Naukite* is awarded after this process is complete (see Appendix B, Document 7). For fulltime students the process usually takes 3 years.

The *Doktor na Naukite* (Doctor of Science) awarded after a period of pure research, represents the highest level of academic achievement in Bulgaria. There is no prescribed program of study or time limit involved. Only those who have earned the title *Kandidat na Naukite* may enter into a research program that leads to the *Doktor na Naukite*, awarded by higher institutes and the three comprehensive universities. The research findings must represent a truly new contribution to the body of knowledge and be recognizable as such both in Bulgaria and internationally. A significant number of publications relating to the original research must also be submitted. This credential is a pre-

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requisite to being appointed full professor (*profesor*) at a university or higher institute.

The *Kandidat na Naukite* and the *Doktor na Naukite* are academic degrees earned after periods of considerable research. They should not be confused with the professional qualifications and titles (e.g., *doktor*) listed on first stage awards. For example, the degree *Kandidat po Veterinarna Meditsina Nauki* from the Higher Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine is an academic credential at the second stage of higher education. The *Doktor po Veterinarna Meditsina* is a professional title at the first stage of higher education earned in conjunction with the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie*. More information on these professional qualifications in medical fields is provided in Chapter 5.

Postgraduate Education

Postgraduate study has now become an integral part of Bulgaria's educational program. With the rapid post-war development of scientific and technical knowledge in Bulgaria and throughout the world, many of the country's higher education institutions began to organize postgraduate training courses of varying lengths. Additionally, a great deal of postgraduate activity has been organized for medical personnel. All medical personnel must periodically return for postgraduate refresher courses at an institute that trains physicians. Most medically related postgraduate programs culminate with the award of the *Diploma za Spetsialnost* (Diploma of Specialization) or *Svidetelstvo de Spetsializatsia* (Certificate of Specialization). (See Appendix B, Document 8).

Of all the postgraduate programs in place, perhaps the most impressive and intensive is that at the University of Sofia, whose Institute of Postgraduate Education organizes and provides administrative services for postgraduate training. Short-term courses may be 5, 10, or up to 30 days' duration. Specialization courses, where additional qualifications may be granted, are typically 6, 12, or 18 months in length. Teacher qualifying courses are 12 or 18 months in length. Other types of retraining courses may be 12, 18, or 24 months in length. Postgraduate courses may be pursued full-time or part-time, individually or in groups. They cover all fields of study offered at the University of Sofia. Although private industry, various ministries, and central departments have all implemented various postgraduate schemes, the higher institutes and universities have preserved their role as the principal centers for postgraduate training.

Prior to 1990 the administrative and organizational structures for postgraduate training courses changed frequently. Thus, statistical data tends to be conflicting and unreliable. However, the number of institutions offering postgraduate programs has proliferated, particularly among those concerned with technology and economics.

The three newly recognized U.S.-style universities have little postgraduate work in place; however, they anticipate offering master's degrees, in parallel with their U.S. counterparts. The New Bulgarian University requires a bachelor's degree of at least 4 years' duration for admission to each of its proposed four master's degree programs and graduate level qualification in clinical social work.

Examinations

The university entrance examinations (*konkursen ispit*), are highly competitive. Comprehensive examinations for professional degrees and board examinations for various licensure purposes are similar to the North American model. For details, refer to Chapter 5: Specialized and Professional Fields of Study.

Examinations in individual courses in Bulgaria's institutions lean heavily toward essay-type questions, with a multiple choice format seldom used. Bulgaria's institutions tend to require class attendance and participation. The practice of simply appearing for a final examination and receiving course credit is infrequent. For those engaged in semi-higher education, the course of study ends with a state final certification examination. Passing this examination allows students the right to exercise their profession or skill.

Grading System

As at the primary and secondary levels, Bulgarian higher education institutions typically employ a 1 to 6 grading system with 6 being the highest grade awarded. In practice, grades of 6 and 1 are rarely given, so that the grade of 5 constitutes a high level of achievement and a 2 indicates unsatisfactory work. In effect, a grade of 3 is the minimum passing mark.

6- Excellent (*Otlichen*)
5- Very good (*Mnogo Dobur*)
4- Good (*Dobur*)
3- Sufficient (*Sreden*)
2- Poor (*Slab*)
1- Bad (*Losh*)

Some institutions are currently investigating the traditional A-F four-point system commonly used in North America. The three newly established U.S.-style universities employ the standard U.S. grading system.

Credits

Most typically the translated transcript from Bulgaria will list class contact hours rather than credits or semester hours. These entries may be recorded as lecture hours and tutorial hours. A simple ratio of 15-17 Bulgarian lecture hours per U.S. semester hour credit may be used to determine appropriate credit for transfer purposes.

Transfer

Once admitted into a program, Bulgarian students tend to remain in their institution and develop a healthy loyalty toward it. Transfer seldom takes place, and when one does transfer, there is often a loss of credit for courses already passed. Students who complete a program of study at one of the semi-higher institutes and are able to gain admission to a higher institute or university may earn the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* a year earlier than their counterparts. However, only a small percentage of semi-higher institute graduates do this.

The difficulty involved in changing from one field of study to another discourages frequent changes of major, although it is technically possible to do so. The lock-step nature of the highly structured academic programs also serves as a deterrent to program changes and transfer.

Academic Documentation

Bulgarian institutions award a small, hard-covered booklet as the student's original diploma. It includes a photograph of the student as well as academic documents and teachers' comments. Some institutions provide the same hard-covered booklet translated into English. If copies of transcripts or translated diplomas appear questionable, the student's original hard-covered diploma booklet should be requested for purposes of comparison.

The credential with qualification or title is awarded after a student completes the higher education program of studies and passes the prescribed examinations. It clearly notes the qualification or specialization. For example, for students completing the prescribed course of study in economics, the diploma—*Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie*—will indicate the professional title of *ikonomist* or *ikonomistka*; in medicine, *lekar* or *meditsinski doktor*; in pharmacy, *aptekar* or *aptekarka*; and in dentistry, *zabolekar* or *zabolekarka*. Usually diplomas name the institution, field of study, area of concentration (*profil*), and/or a specialty (*spetsializatsia*) within the field, and indicate dates of attendance and the date of the diploma award.

All indications are that the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* will become known as a bachelor's degree in the future, and translations may reflect this rather than the literal translation "diploma of completed higher education." The newly established U.S.-style universities' transcripts will appear in the same standard format as those of their U.S. counterparts.

Foreign Students

Foreign students from less developed countries have long been a part of the higher education picture in Bulgaria, as the central government identified this avenue as a means of sharing and perhaps influencing the ideological and political insights of the rest of the world. The fine arts institutions of Bulgaria have had a special appeal for foreign students.

A key component for international student study in Bulgaria has been the Institute for Foreign Students (*Institut za Cuzdestranni Studenti*), which prepares students in the Bulgarian language and offers certificate programs in other languages. Recent enrollment at the institute surpassed 1,200 foreign students. Several higher education institutions have their own Bulgarian language training programs to prepare foreign students for classwork.

Foreign student diplomas are awarded with the same titles and containing the same information as domestic student diplomas. Where appropriate, these are usually translated into English on the official diploma, and there may be some additional notations (see Chapter 6: Guidelines for Admissions Officers).

Adult and Non-formal Education

The Law on School Education of the Republic of Bulgaria states, "Everyone may exercise his/her right to education regardless of age." Those above compulsory school age who have not completed primary and secondary schooling may do so in evening or part-time study, or via correspondence or other forms of instructional opportunity. For the most part, such education has been organized by state-maintained schools and is free of charge. Completed coursework should not be considered as being at the postsecondary level.

Adult education programs include general polytechnical evening classes held in any school facility available. Some industrial enterprises provide various training programs of their own, apart from the schools supervised by the Ministry of Education and Science. Also, most semi-higher institutes, higher institutes, and the universities provide correspondence courses (*zadochno*) for students employed fulltime.

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Chapter 5

Specialized and Professional Programs

Grading practices in higher education institutions that offer specialized and professional study are identical to those utilized in all the other sectors of education in Bulgaria.

Agriculture and Forestry

Bulgaria has depended heavily on agriculture throughout its history, first with subsistence farming, then collective farming, and now back to an effort at land redistribution. Bulgaria's first professional program in agricultural education was established in 1921 with the founding of the Faculty of Agronomy and Forestry of Sofia University. Two years later the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was established. In 1974 both faculties were moved from Sofia to Stara Zagora and together became known as the Higher Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine. Although this institution is now referring to itself as the University of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine, the Ministry of Education and Science continues to recognize the name of Higher Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine. The Agricultural Faculty provides education in all fields of agriculture but especially emphasizes animal science.

The Higher Institute of Agriculture, founded in 1945 in Plovdiv, was the second institution of agricultural education in Bulgaria. In 1955 it adopted the name of the distinguished Bulgarian State leader Vassil Kolarov and became known as the V. Kolarov Higher Institute of Agriculture. Currently it is seeking to have its name changed to Agricultural University Plovdiv. It is the only institution designed for the training of agronomists in the Republic of Bulgaria. At the present time five faculties exist at the V. Kolarov Higher Institute of Agriculture.

The first stage of study culminates in the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education). Postgraduate programs of varying lengths of study are offered. Following is a sample 4.5-year curriculum offered by the V. Kolarov Higher Institute of Agriculture to train Engineer-Agronomists.

Year 1—Fundamental Training

Obligatory Subjects: Higher Mathematics, Agriculture Energetics, Plant Anatomy and Morphology, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Physics, Zoology, Systematics, Agricultural Statistics, Foreign Language, Physical Culture and Sports

Optional Subjects: Foreign Language, Geodesy with Land Surveys, Geology, Philosophy

Year 2—Fundamental Training

Obligatory Subjects: Plant Biochemistry, Agrochemistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Plant Physiology, Agricultural Engineering, Soil Science, Anatomy and Physiology of Farm Animals, Agroinformatics, Agrometeorology, Physical Culture and Sports

Optional Subjects: Foreign Language, Plant Introduction, Rural Sociology, Agrarian Policy, Methods of Experimentation with Biometrics

Year 3—Specialization Training (Engineer-Agronomist)

Obligatory Subjects: Irrigation and Drainage, Farming and Herbology, Entomology, Animal Husbandry, Private Animal Farming, General Economy, Plant Production, Phytopathology, Viticulture, Foreign Language

Optional Subjects: Foreign Language, Agrarian Legislation, Politics, Pedagogical Psychology, Zoohygiene, Liming of Acids and Saline Soils, Sericulture, Pedagogics, Physical Culture and Sports

Year 4—Specialization Training (Engineer-Agronomist)

Obligatory Subjects: Viticulture, Plant Production, Fodder Production, Agroecology, Farm Economics, Entology, Fruit Culture, Vegetable Culture, Plant Breeding and Production

Optional Subjects: Foreign Language, Plant Production Biotechnologies, Floriculture, Mushroom Culture, Dairy Farming, Bookkeeping, Apiculture, Finances and Credit, Herbology, Physical Culture and Sports

Year 5 (1 semester)—Specialization Training (Engineer-Agronomist)

Obligatory Subjects: Organization and Management, Fruit Culture, Vegetable Culture, Machine and Tractor Fleet Utilization

Optional Subjects: Foreign Language, Application of Electron Microscopy in Plant Production Certification, Marketing, Cooperative Science, Ethics, Information Systems, Physical Culture and Sports.

A second agricultural institution in the city of Plovdiv is the Higher Institute of Food and Flavor Industry (*Vissh Institut Po Hranitelna I Vkusova Promislenost*). During its brief history the Institute has been referred to as The Institute of Food Industry and the Higher Institute of Food, Beverage, and Tobacco Industries in Plovdiv. First founded as the Department of Agricultural Technology of the University of Plovdiv in 1948, it became a separate higher institute in 1953. The current name has been used since 1983.

In Bulgaria no semi-higher institutes have been established for study directly related to the forest industry. The Higher Institute of Forestry (*Vissh Lesothniceski Institut*) in Sofia is the only institute in Bulgaria for the training of specialists in the various fields relative to forestry.

Business and Economics

The Semi-Higher Institute in Economics and Management in Svishtov is Bulgaria's only semi-higher institute offering instruction in economics and management, with credentials awarded after 2.5 to 3.5 years of study.

Bulgaria has three higher education institutes devoted to economics and business, located in the cities of Sofia, Varna, and Svishtov. Though exhibiting common features, each institution has its own programs, related to its specific history. The Dimitre Blagoev Higher Institute of Finance and Economics, now known as the Higher Institute of Finance and Economics (*Vissh Institut Za Narodno Stopanstvo 'Dimitre Blagoev'*) in Svishtov specializes in finance and bookkeeping. The Karl Marx Higher Institute of Economics (*Vissh Ikonomiceski Institut 'Karl Marx'*), now known as the Higher Institute of Economics, in Sofia, is the largest and is of more complex character. These two higher institutes for business and economics, along with the Higher Institute of National Economics (*Vissh Institut za Narodno Stopanstvo*) in Varna, offer all three standard diplomas and awards common to the Bulgarian system of higher education: the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie*, the *Kandidat na Naukite*, and the *Doktor na Naukite*. They also offer a wide range of short-term programs to allow their graduates to keep up to date and to change specialization when desired.

Scientific research work at the Karl Marx Higher Institute of Economics focuses mainly on the prognosis of the development of the national economic complex, the methodological basis of the economic mechanism of national economic management, management of branch and territorial models, systematic analysis and computerized management, world economic trends and their impact on Bulgaria, and labor and labor relations. Transcripts from the Higher Institute of Economics will indicate the specialty studied: Agrarian Economics, Accountancy and Control, Industrial Economics and Management, Economic Informatics, Finance, Trade Business and Entrepreneurship, Corporate Auditing and Analysis, International Business, Statistics and Econometrics, or Marketing Planning.

Foreign students have been particularly drawn to these economics institutes, with approximately 1,000 of them currently enrolled. Upon completion of 4.5 years of study, these students are awarded the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* with the professional title of economist (*ekonomist*) indicated, although this credential is often provided to foreign students in translation as a "master's degree."

Communications

The Semi-Higher Institute in Communications in Sofia was established in 1922 and is the only institute devoted to communications in Bulgaria. Young men and women of 18 to 20 years of age with a secondary school education can be admitted to the institute for the 3-year course of study. There is also a 4-year correspondence course.

The Semi-Higher Institute in Communications offers majors in Communication Technology, Radio and TV Technology, and Economics and the Organization of Communications. Students receive a good theoretical background in mathematics, informatics, electrotechnics, electrical measurements, digital technology, microelectronic schemes, semiconductors, etc. Special emphasis is given to optical and microwave systems, radio network, and satellite and cable systems.

Graduates of the institute are employed mainly in Bulgarian enterprises as communications specialists. The Semi-Higher Institute of Communications has contract relations with the TELECOM Institutes in Germany for the exchange of curricula, lecturers, students, and practical training. The institute is being reviewed and upgraded at the present time and may soon have new curricular and diploma offerings.

Engineering and Technical Education

To provide training for specialists in various technical fields, Bulgaria has established a network of 14 semi-higher institutes, located in Blagoevgrad, Botevgrad, Burgas, Dobrich, Kardjali, Lovetch, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Silistra, Smoljan, Sofia, and Varna. These semi-higher institutes offer programs consisting of 3 years of instruction and training, and their graduates go directly into the workforce. Although it is theoretically possible for semi-higher institute graduates to continue study in higher institutes and universities, in reality this seldom happens, as the programs are not designed to be stepping stones to more advanced study.

In the early 1900s, there was only one State Polytechnic Institute in Bulgaria. In 1953 that institution was divided into four separate institutions, such as The V. I. Lenin Institute of Electronic Engineering, each providing engineering and technical education. Today, there are altogether 10 such higher institutes for engineers and specialists in technology, located in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Ruse, Burgas, and Gabravo, all the geographical regions. More than 45,000 students were enrolled as of early 1993. The higher institutes are in a state of flux, with many curricular changes taking place or projected to ensure a quality of education relevant to European standards. Many of these institutes are introducing changes in content necessary for their transformation from higher institutes to universities. The distinction between universities and the higher institutes is not very pronounced in Bulgaria.

Because higher institutes recognise the importance of the humanities in addition to obligatory technological subjects, students also take pedagogy, psychology, aesthetics, journalism, foreign languages and similar subjects.

All higher institutes specializing in technology require the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie* and entrance examinations for admission to their programs. Upon satisfactory completion of the programs, 4 to 5 years in length, students earn the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie.* The title engineer (*inzhener*), is also noted, along with the specialized field (Chemical Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, Automation Engineering, etc.). An additional 3 years may culminate in the award of the *Kandidat na Naukite.* Further advanced study and research may result in the award of the *Doktor na Naukite.*

Health and Medical Professions

Health education is offered by semi-higher institutes, which focus on allied health areas, and by the five higher institutes of medicine that have been established in Bulgaria's largest cities: Sofia, Varna, Plovdiv, Pleven, and Stara Zagora. With these five institutions and their branches in Dobrich and Pozardjik, each region of Bulgaria has filled its needs for physicians and dentists. The responsibility for all areas of health education with the exception of opthamology, a secondary technical specialization, is delegated to the Ministry of Health.

Allied Health Fields

The various allied health fields are almost completely a function of the 14 semi-higher medical institutes (*poluvisshe meditsinski instituti*) in Bulgaria. The programs offered require 2 to 3 years of training for secondary school graduates who have passed the entrance examinations. Individuals successfully completing semi-higher institute programs usually enter a health related profession. Each semi-higher institution offers from two to eight allied health programs. Three of these semi-higher institutions are already 50 years old, most of them having been established from 1945 to 1950, with the most recent in 1979. From 1960 there have been various changes in the levels at which allied health courses have been offered and the terminology referring to these levels:

From 1960 to 1976: secondary allied health education (*sredno meditsinsko obrazovanie*)

From 1976 to 1980: semi-higher allied health education (*poluvisshe meditsinsko obrazovanie*)

From 1980 to 1990: secondary specialized/allied health education (*sredno spetsialno/meditsinsko obrazovanie*)

From 1990 on: semi-higher medical education (*poluvisshe meditsinsko obrazovanie*)

Only recently have the semi-higher institutes been considered to belong to the sphere of higher education. Allied health workers with training at the secondary school level may upgrade their qualifications to the semi-higher level and receive the same status as the graduates of the semi-higher institutes by taking a retraining course and an examination. Although in some fields of study higher institutes may grant transfer credits for allied health coursework completed at semi-higher institutes, the higher medical institutes do not allow any transfer credit.

To be admitted to a semi-higher health institute, all secondary school graduates have to pass an entrance examination in the biological sciences. An exception is made for applicants to the dental technician "modeling" program. Upon completion of all allied health programs, a state examination is given. Successful graduates are awarded the credential *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Meditsinsko Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Semi-Higher Medical Education) with the specialization noted. This diploma is the final document; there is no further licensing system for employment in allied health fields. Following are specializations and their length of study in years:

Nurse (*meditsinska sestra*) 2.5
Midwife (*akusherka*) 3
Community Health Practitioner (*felcher*) 3*
Dental Technician (*zubotekhnik*) 2 years
Rehabilitation Technician (*rekhab ilitator*) 3
Assistant Pharmacist (*pomoshchik farmacevt*) 2
Orthopaedic Technician (*ortopedichen tekhnik*) 2
X-ray Technician (*rentgenov laborant*) 2.5
Nutrition Inspector (*inspektor po khranene*) 2
Sanitation Inspector (*sanitaren inspektor*) 3
Social Worker (*sotsialen rabotnik*) 2

*To be eliminated; certified *felchers* will be allowed to work as nurses.

It is the goal of the Ministry of Health that these semi-higher institute programs be integrated into higher institutes in the near future. The maximum capacity for these programs is 4,000 but only 2,000 to 3,000 are trained each year. The Ministry of Health prescribes the workforce requirements and thus controls enrollment.

Dentistry (Stomatology)

The programs of dentistry or stomatology are offered by the higher medical institutes at Sofia and Plovdiv. To be admitted, secondary school graduates have to pass entrance examinations. The programs are of 5.5 years' duration. Instruction is given in the form of lectures, seminars, and practical training and there are preliminary oral examinations each semester.

Following is the curriculum at Sofia:

During the first 2 years, required subjects include: biology, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, biophysics, anatomy and histology, physiology, Latin, and computer techniques. In the second or third to ninth semester, students also receive training in general and clinical medicine, including courses in pathologic anatomy, pathophysiology, pharmacology, internal medicine, surgical disease, pediatric and infectious diseases, skin and venereal diseases, nerve diseases and psychiatry, eye diseases, ear-nose-throat diseases, obstetrics, roentgenology, hygiene and epidemiology, forensic medicine, social medicine, and medicine in disaster situations.

Additionally, from the fourth or fifth to the tenth semester, students train in six special departments: Pediatric Stomatology, Therapeutic Stomatology, Surgical Stomatology, Prosthetic Stomatology (prosthodontics), Orthodontics, and Social Medicine and Public Dental Health Care.

The eleventh semester is the pre-graduation internship. This period is followed by the state examination, and upon successful completion the student is awarded the degree of *Doktor po Stomatologija* (Doctor of Dentistry) or the qualification *Stomatolog* (Dentist).

Postgraduate Courses- The Higher Medical Institute in Sofia offers Pediatric Stomatology, Therapeutic Stomatology, and Surgical Stomatology as postgraduate specializations with a duration of 3 years. The *Diploma za Spetsialnost* (Diploma of Specialization) noting the specialization is awarded upon completion of one of these programs, and is the qualification to practice stomatology as a specialist in the field indicated.

General Medicine

Training for medical doctors is offered by the five higher medical institutes located in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Pleven, and Stara Zagora, the latter with branches in Dobrich and Pozardjik. To be admitted, secondary school graduates have to pass entrance examinations in chemistry and biology. The program is 6 years in length and divided into three levels: pre-clinical training (2 years), which gives the student indispensable biological and medical knowledge; clinical training and practice (3 years), aimed at gaining knowledge in diagnosing and treating diseases; and the internship (1 year), with the objective of implementing in practice the knowledge acquired. Students learn from lectures, seminars, and practical training.

Practical and theoretical oral examinations are given each semester. In the past, the curricula were centrally established. Since the reforms in 1990 when the institutions gained autonomy, curricula are determined by the institutions themselves, although there is some voluntary cooperation with the Ministry of Health. A committee composed of the rectors of the five medical institutes also seeks a certain degree of inter-institutional coordination.

Following is the curriculum at the Higher Medical Institute in Sofia:

Year 1: Medical chemistry, physics, biology, anatomy, histology, Latin, medical terminology, and medical ethics.

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Year 2: Anatomy, biophysics, physiology, biochemistry, medical psychology, history of medicine, social medicine, introduction to clinical medicine, informatics, and statistics. Students have to take 10 exams. The average weekly workload is 30 to 35 hours, half of it compulsory.

Years 3, 4, 5 (in various university hospitals): Clinical studies, microbiology, medical genetics, pathophysiology, pharmacology, pathologic anatomy and cytopathology, propedeutics of internal diseases, general and operative surgery, medicine of disaster situations, physiotherapy and rehabilitation, roentgenology and radiology, ear-nose-throat diseases, eye diseases, nerve diseases, clinical pharmacology, obstetrics and gynecology, skin and venereal diseases, psychiatry, internal medicine, clinical laboratory, immunology, pediatric diseases, surgical diseases, orthopedics and traumatology, urology, anesthesiology and resuscitation, infectious diseases, tropical medicine and diseases, epidemiology, hygiene, ecology and occupational diseases, forensic medicine, and ethics. There are two 15-day internships; one in internal medicine diseases and surgery, one in pediatric diseases and intensive care. Students are required to take 26 exams.

Year 6 (internships conducted in faculty-based hospitals): Internal medicine (60 days); intensive care (15 days); surgery (60 days); gynecology (45 days); pediatric diseases (45 days); emergency medical aid (15 days); hygiene, infectious diseases, and epidemiology (60 days); and eye diseases, ear-nose-throat diseases, skin and venereal diseases, and neurology (7 days each). After each internship period, students must pass a test. At the end of the internship, students sit for the final certification examination in internal medicine, surgery, pediatric and infectious diseases, obstetrics and gynecology, hygiene, and ecology.

After passing the final examination, students are awarded the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* with the title *Doktor po Meditsina* (Doctor of Medicine), or the qualification *Lekar* (Physician), with the right to practice general medicine. Holders of these qualifications function as general practitioners.

Postgraduate Courses- The medical doctor may specialize in different fields. There are over 40 basic specializations with a duration of 1.5 to 4 years, in each case the length of the program depending on the field. Specialization courses are under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, but are offered by the medical institutes. Graduates receive a *Diploma za Spetsialnost* (Diploma of Specialization), which is the qualification to practice medicine as a specialist in the field.

Nursing

In Bulgaria, nursing is taught in the semi-higher institutes and is a 2.5- to 3-year program. Nursing study, consisting of both theoretical and practical components, is quite similar to the diploma programs of community colleges and hospitals in the United States. Nurses are licensed to practice upon completion of the required coursework and a final examination.

After passing the final examination the graduate receives the credential *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Meditsinsko Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Semi-Higher Medical Education) with the relevant specialization indicated. Possession of this diploma licenses the nurses for practice. The three specializations are General nursing (*Obshch profil*), Pediatric nursing (*Detski profil*), and Dental nursing (*Stomatologichen profil*).

In small towns and villages it is accepted that *felcher*s may work as community health practitioners, and the Ministry of Health is planning reforms that would make this practice possible everywhere. The diploma of midwife (*akusherka*; see Allied Health) also qualifies the graduate to work both as a midwife and as a nurse.

Pharmacy

The qualification or first degree-level program in pharmacy requires 5 years of study leading to the award of *Magister-Farmatsevt* (Master Pharmacist). The Higher Institute of Medicine in Sofia has a Faculty of Pharmacy that leads in the preparation of pharmacists for the nation. The only other faculty of pharmacy is a small one at the Higher Institute of Medicine in Plovdiv.

Secondary school graduates have to pass an entrance examination for admission. There are two programs or "profiles:" a general profile and a profile with an industrial/production emphasis. Students are taught in the form of lectures, seminars, and practical training and are required to pass practical and oral examinations covering theory each semester.

The program duration is 5 years, divided into three levels:

The first level consists of the first 3 years of the program, during which students receive general instruction and take fundamental subjects in order to obtain basic knowledge in the specialty. During the first semester, the emphasis is on biology, chemistry, and mathematics. In the following 5 semesters, subjects include inorganic, organic, analytical, physical, and colloidal chemistry; physics and biophysics; medical botany; higher and applied mathematics; human anatomy and physiology; biochemistry with clinical medicine; pharmacology; medicine in disaster situations; pharmaceutic propedeutics; medical botany; pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical botany, chemistry, and technology; microbiology and virology; pathoanatomy and physiology; pharmacology and toxicology; and, for the industrial students only, technical drawing, processes, and apparatus in the pharmaceutical industry. Additional subjects studied by all students at this level are Latin and foreign languages. Students are required to take 20 examinations. Practical training consists of:

Year 1: A 6-day botany excursion and an 18-day field experience in retail pharmacy
Year 2: A 6-day pharmacognosy excursion and a second 18-day field experience in retail pharmacy
Year 3: A 24 day internship in retail pharmacy

At the second level, which consists of the next 1.5 years, students train in special pharmaceutic subjects and skills, and elect to follow either general or production programs. Both require mastery of hygiene and ecology, pharmacology, drug toxicology, pharmacognosy, pharmaceutic chemistry, and drug technology.

Specific subjects at the second level for the general program are: bromatology, social pharmacy and legislation, medical techniques and instruments, economics, and environmental aspects of disease. Additional subjects required in the industrial/production program are: technical drawing, pharmaceutic technology, chemical-pharmaceutic technology, drug control and standardization, and organization and economy of pharmaceutic production. The general program requires 14 examinations; the production program, 17 examinations.

The third level, which begins after 4.5 years, consists of the final 6 months in a pre-graduation internship in pharmacies or pharmaceutic companies. Optional subjects offered for students in the industrial/production program are: solid dosage forms, perfume and cosmetics, marketing and management, biotechnology, and technology of drug synthesis. Oral exams conclude this period.

Students intending to become registered practicing pharmacists are required to pass the state examination in pharmacy. Those in the industrial/production program are required to submit a thesis in order to complete program requirements and receive the qualification. After successfully taking the state examination or defending a thesis, students receive the qualification *Magister-Farmatsevt* (Master Pharmacist).

Postgraduate Courses- The three specializations, each lasting 3 years, are analysis of medical objects, organization and management of the pharmaceutic business, and technology of medical forms and objects. Other specializations are being introduced. Upon successful completion of a specialization program, a pharmacist earns the *Diploma za Spetsialnost* (Diploma of Specialization).

Veterinary Medicine

In Bulgaria, veterinary medicine is closely allied with agriculture. Currently, the chief institution for the study of veterinary medicine is the Higher Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine in Stara Zagora. The veterinary medicine faculty was actually established in 1923 at Sofia University, the precurser to the higher institute (see "Allied Health"). To be admitted, secondary school graduates must pass entrance examinations in chemistry and biology. Through 1975 the training in veterinary medicine was 5 years (10 semester-long terms), with 2 summer months of practice. During the period 1975-1978 the training was 4.5 years (9 semester-long terms), with 2 summer months of practice. Beginning in 1988 the program again consisted of 5 years plus a final semester of an obligatory internship. The study of two foreign languages (English, French, German, or Russian) is obligatory during the first three terms. Continued foreign language study is for those with higher marks. The programs have virtually no general education component other than foreign language. The qualifications earned are:

Doktor po Veterinarna Meditsina (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine): The program duration is 5.5 years; the curriculum followed is listed below. After successfully passing the state examination, graduates receive the *Diploma za Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Higher Education) with the title *Doktor po Veterinarna Meditsina*, which is the qualification for work as a veterinarian. (This title may sometimes be indicated as *Doktor na Veterinarno-meditsinskite.*)

Magister po Veterinarna Meditsina (Master of Veterinary Medicine): This qualification is being awarded beginning with the 1992-1993 academic year. Admission to the program requires possession of the *Diploma za Visshe Obrazovanie* with the title of *Doktor po Veterinarna Meditsina* with a grade average of at least 5. The program consists of 1 year beyond the initial qualification. Study consists of the writing and defense of a thesis, completion of at least 5 out of 21 optional master courses in connection with the subject of the thesis, and proficiency in one foreign language. Before 1992 the qualification awarded at this stage on the way to the research doctorate was the *Kandidat na Veterinarna Meditsina Nauki* after 2 to 3 years of study.

Doktor po Veterinarna Meditsina Nauki (Doctor of Veterinary Science): Admission to the program requires possession of the *Magister po Veterinarna Meditsina* or the *Kandidat na Veterinarna Meditsina Nauki*. The length of the program varies. The candidate must write and successfully defend a dissertation, pass examinations in the specialization studied, and demonstrate proficiency in two foreign languages.

Following is a curriculum leading to Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the Higher School of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine at Stara Zagora:

Year 1- First term: Medical chemistry; medical botany; mathematics/biometry; introduction to the history of veterinary medicine; informatics and computer sciences (optional); cytology, histology, and embryology; anatomy; Latin; foreign language (Russian, English, French, or German). Total weekly hours: 33.

Second term: Cytology, histology, and embryology; zoology; medical physics with principles of biophysics; philosophy; Latin; foreign language; agrarian law (optional); agrarian sociology (optional); anatomy. Total weekly hours: 33.

Year 2- Third term: Anatomy; veterinary medical genetics and breeding of farm animals; general economic theory; forage production; foreign language; biochemistry; veterinary physiology; politics (optional); social psychology (optional). Total weekly hours: 39.

Fourth term: Veterinary microbiology; biochemistry; animal nutrition; animal husbandry; veterinary endocrinology (optional); pathological physiology. Total weekly hours: 35.

Year 3- Fifth term: Veterinary microbiology; veterinary virology; pathological physiology; general pathological morphology; radiobiology and radioecology; pharmacology; propedeutics with clinical diagnostics; animal ethology (optional). Total weekly hours: 32.

Sixth term: Pharmacology; propedeutics with clinical diagnostics; general surgery with surgical propedeutics; animal hygiene and technologies in animal husbandry; veterinary ecology; fish farming and fish diseases; apiculture; bee and silkworm diseases; special pathological anatomy; immunology (optional). Total weekly hours: 37.

Year 4- Seventh term: Pathological anatomy; topographical anatomy; operative surgery; dietetics and forage hygiene; internal non-infectious diseases; obstetrics and gynecology; parasitology; special surgery, ophthalmology, and orthopedy; anesthesiology (optional). Total weekly hours: 39.

Eighth term: Parasitology; special surgery with clinics; epizootology; veterinary toxicology; radiology and physical therapy; problems of general pharmacoprophylaxis and therapy (optional); neurology with acupuncture (optional); internal non-infectious diseases; obstetrics and gynecology. Total weekly hours: 41.

Year 5- Ninth term: Internal non-infectious diseases; obstetrics and gynecology; diseases of small companion animals; andrology and artificial insemination; economics and organization of animal husbandry; mycology (optional); infectious diseases; hygiene and technology of animal products; ambulatory and clinical activity with pathologo-anatomical diagnostics. Total weekly hours: 40.

Tenth term: Infectious diseases; hygiene and technology of animal products; organization of veterinary service; forensic veterinary medicine and deontology; tropical diseases; game diseases; agromanagement and marketing (optional); veterinary dermatology (optional); ambulatory clinical activity with pathologo-anatomical diagnostics. Total weekly hours: 32.

For the duration of this program of study, there are 50 obligatory courses, including Latin and foreign language, and 15 optional courses. Additionally, foreign students are required to study Bulgarian.

Law

The study of law is offered by the law faculties of Sofia University, the Cyril and Methodius University of Veliko Turnovo, and the Higher Institute of Economics in Sofia (Karl Marx). The Higher Teacher Training Institute in Blagoevgrad has a Department of Law and offers the same degree. The Faculty of Law at Sofia University is the most prestigious in Bulgaria, having been founded in 1892, just 4 years after the establishment of the university. Traditionally only graduates of Sofia University become courtroom lawyers. All others work in various legal capacities as advisers in companies, government agencies, etc.

The first professional qualification in law requires 5 years of study in the universities, and 4.5 years in the higher institutes. In the institutes there is a development in the direction of 5-year programs. Two of the new private U.S.-style universities—New Bulgarian University in Sofia and

Burgas Free University—are offering a 4-year Bachelor in Law degree. At the time of this research no degrees had been awarded, but the Ministry of Education and Science indicated the degrees from these private institutions would be recognized.

To be admitted for the study of law, secondary school graduates must pass entrance examinations in Bulgarian language, literature, and history. Each year there are approximately 9,000 applications for 100 spaces for fulltime students and 80 spaces for part-time students. Such intense competition means that only an excellent high school record and a grade of at least 5 (out of 6) in subjects on the entrance examination guarantee consideration for admission.

The universities offer specializations in Jurisdiction, Public Administration, and International Law and Relations. A separate specialization in International Relations is under development. In each year of the program, students complete a common core of subjects along with subjects in the chosen specialization, except for the fifth year, when study is totally concentrated on the specialization. At the end of the fifth year, students must pass oral examinations in civil, criminal, and public law, and in subjects in the specialization they have followed. These examinations are referred to as "the state examination" even though they are organized by the institutions internally.

After successfully passing the examinations, graduates are awarded the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education) with the qualification *Pravo* (Law) indicated. Only students with a specialization in jurisdiction may be admitted to the 6-month period of court training. After passing an oral examination, they are qualified to work in court.

Following is the course list in the Faculty of Law program at Sofia University:

I. Obligatory Courses

1. Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure
2. Law of Estate
3. Civil Procedure
4. Civil Law (General Part)
5. History of Bulgarian State and Law
6. Constitutional Law
7. Criminalistics
8. International Public Law
9. International Private Law
10. Criminal Procedure
11. Criminal Law
12. Law of Obligations
13. Economics
14. General Theory of Law
15. Social Security
16. Roman Law
17. Family Law and Law of Succession
18. Labor Law
19. Commercial Law
20. Financial Law

II. Required Elective Courses (students in each specialization must choose at least 10 courses)

A. Specialization: Jurisdiction

1. Administrative Jurisdiction
2. Bank Law
3. Civil Executive Procedure
4. State Regulation of Economic Activity
5. Insurance Law
6. Protection of Human Rights
7. Penitentiary Law
8. Constitutional Court
9. Law of Co-operatives
10. Criminology
11. International Relations
12. International Commercial Arbitration
13. Notarial Procedure
14. General Theory of State
15. Organization of Institutions for Protection of Rights
16. Land Law
17. Legal Information
18. Legal Psychology
19. Legal Theories
20. Law of European Communities
21. Law of Intellectual Property
22. Experts' Consultations in Court
23. Comparative Civil and Commercial Law
24. Comparative Labor Law
25. Labor Law and Labor Arbitration
26. Philosophy of Law

B. Specialization: Public Administration

1. Administrative Jurisdiction
2. Bank Law
3. Currencies and Customs Law
4. Civil Status of Personalities
5. Taxation Law
6. State Regulation of Economic Activities
7. Ecological Law
8. Experts' Consultations
9. Insurance Law
10. Protection of Human Rights
11. Constitutional Control
12. Criminology
13. Local Government

14. General History of State and Law
15. General Theory of Law
16. Parliamentary Law
17. Land Law
18. Political and Legal Theories
19. Police Law
20. Legal Informatics
21. Legal Sociology
22. Law of European Communities
23. Comparative Constitutional Law
24. Theory and Practice of Foreign Policy
25. Territorial and Town/Village Organization
26. Law of Public Officials

C. Specialization: International Law and International Relations

1. Currencies and Customs Law
2. Diplomatic and Consular Law
3. Ecological Law
4. History of International Relations
5. International Protection of Human Rights
6. International Administrative Law
7. International Law of Contracts
8. International Law of the Sea
9. International Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure
10. International Protection of Intellectual Property
11. International Jurisdiction
12. International Labor Law and Social Security
13. International Commercial Arbitration
14. International Financial Law
15. International Family Law and Law of Succession
16. General History of State and Law
17. General Theory of State
18. Political and Legal Theories
19. Politology
20. Legal Status of International Organizations
21. Legal Informatics
22. Law of European Communities
23. Law of International Transport
24. Comparative Civil and Commercial Law
25. Comparative Constitutional Law
26. Theory of International Relations
27. Philosophy of Law

III. Optional Courses

1. Introduction in Law
2. Election Systems and Election Procedures
3. History of Political Parties and Movements
4. Canon Law
5. Marketing
6. Methodology and Technics of Legislation
7. International Investigation
8. Legal Logics
9. Rhetorics
10. Sports
11. Forensic Medicine
12. Forensic Psychiatry
13. Foreign Language (English, Spanish, Italian, German, Russian, French)
14. Juridical Ethics

Performing and Fine Arts

Chief among institutions devoted to the preservation and promotion of fine arts and culture are the Nikolai Pavlovic Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Sofia, Krstyo Sarafov Higher Institute of Dramatic Art, the Bulgarian State Conservatory in Sofia, and the Higher Institute of Music Education in Plovdiv. Their graduates, who are world famous singers, instrumentalists, composers, choral singers, conductors, painters, sculptors, graphic artists, actors, film makers, and producers, have raised the prestige of Bulgarian art and culture within the country and abroad, leading numerous foreign students to apply for admission.

Faculties at the Bulgarian State Conservatory include Voice, Instrumental, and Musical Theory (Composition and Conducting). Programs leading to teaching and professional qualifications in Stage Art (Directing, Producing, Acting) require 4 years and all other programs require 5 years. The first stage of study culminates in the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education) with a specialization noted. An extensive thesis project may culminate in the *Kandidat na Naukite.*

The Higher Institute of Music Education in Plovdiv has a heavy emphasis on national folk music and dance. Teaching and professional qualifications require 4 years of study and culminate in the award of the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie*, with the specialization noted.

Programs at the Krstyo Sarafov National Academy for Theater and Film Arts in Sofia focus on acting, producing, science of dramatic art, puppetry and staging, cinema and television production, cartoons, and film making. Admission is very competitive and entrance examinations are required. The duration of training for acting, puppetry, and staging is 4 years. For other programs it is 5 years. Upon satisfactory completion of the program students receive the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* with the specialization noted.

Faculties at the Nikolai Pavlovic Higher Institute of Fine Arts include Fine Arts and Applied Arts. The institute offers programs at the *diploma* level only; there are no postgraduate level programs. In the Applied Arts departments, the program of study is of 5 years' duration, and for the Fine Arts departments, 5.5 years. Upon successful completion of any of the programs offered, students receive the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* with specialization noted (Document 5).

Teacher Training

Preschool

The majority of Bulgaria's preschool teachers have been trained in one of the 12 semi-higher pedagogical institutes, sometimes referred to as *uchitelski institut*, which have been established geographically to cover all regions of the nation. These semi-higher pedagogical institutes provide a preschool teacher training program and are always under the guidance of university faculties of pedagogy. Over the years, the length of these teacher training programs has varied from 2.5 to 3.5 years. Upon successful completion of the training program, the student is awarded the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Semi-Higher Education), or the *Svidetelstvo za Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Certificate of Semi-Higher Education) with the title *Uchitel* (teacher) noted (see Documents 4a and 4b).

Advanced teacher training for preschool teachers is available in two higher institutes located in Shoumen (often translated as Choumen) and in Blagoevgrad. In keeping with the spirit of autonomy sweeping the country, both teacher training institutions are seeking to acquire new names that reflect university status.

The Higher Pedagogical Institute "*Konstantin Preslavski*" in Shoumen was developed under the sponsorship of Sofia University. Currently this institute has 11 faculties. Upon successful completion of the 3-year program, students earn a *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* or a *Svidetelstvo za Poluvisshe Obrazovanie*, which indicates the specialization (preschool), and the title, *Uchitel* (teacher). An additional 2 years of preschool teacher training is required to earn the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe*

The Higher Teacher Training Institute in Blagoevgrad established a separate department for training of teachers in the subject of preschool pedagogics beginning with the 1991-1992 academic year. This new department is referred to as the Department of Psychology and Preschool Pedagogics. Admission is competitive and applicants are required to take an entrance examination covering Bulgarian language and literature, communicative abilities, speech, and music listening. Bulgarian language skills of foreign students are critically examined.

Following is a complete preschool teacher training curriculum:

I. General Theoretical Cycle

1. Introduction to philosophy (45 hours)
2. Logic (30 hours)
3. Ethics (30 hours)
4. Aesthetics (15 hours)
5. Politics (45 hours)
6. General economics theory (60 hours)
7. History of the world culture (45 hours)
8. History of the Bulgarian culture (45 hours)
9. Anatomy and physiology of the child (60 hours)
10. Hygiene of the child (45 hours)
11. Fundamentals of fault detection (45 hours)
12. Man in a mature society (60 hours)
13. Defense in extreme situations (30 hours)
14. Introduction to linguistics (30 hours)
15. Modern Bulgarian language (75 hours)
16. Fundamentals of children's linguistics (30 hours)
17. Literature for children (60 hours)
18. Bulgarian folklore (30 hours)

II. Psychological and Pedagogical Cycle

1. General psychology (45 hours)
2. Functional psychology (15 hours)
3. Age psychology (90 hours)
4. Pedagogical psychology (45 hours)
5. Experimental psychology (60 hours)
6. Psychology of communication (30 hours)
7. History of pedagogics (90 hours)
8. Pedagogics (60 hours)
9. Pedagogical diagnostics (15 hours)
10. Preschool pedagogics (150 hours)

Methods Block

1. Methods of play (30 hours)
2. Methods of introduction to the surrounding world (90 hours)
3. Methods of forming mathematical ideas (60 hours)
4. Methods of musical education (90 hours)
5. Methods of physical education (75 hours)
6. Methods of art activities (60 hours)
7. Methods of labor training and constructive technical activities (75 hours)
8. Public speech and recitation (45 hours)

III. General Cycle of Applied Knowledge

1. Culture of speech (30 hours)
2. Rhetoric (30 hours)
3. Theory of music (45 hours)
4. Solfeggio (45 hours)
5. Musical instruments (75 hours)
6. Basis of technical culture (30 hours)
7. Technical teaching devices (30 hours)
8. Art activities (60 hours)
9. Singing (30 hours)

10 Puppet theatrical art (30 hours)

IV. Training Practices at the Nursery School

1. Experimental psychology (15 hours)
2. Psychology of communications (15 hours)
3. Pedagogical diagnostics (15 hours)
4. Methods of games (15 hours)
5. Preschool pedagogics (75 hours)
6. Methods of native language teaching (60 hours)
7. Methods of forming elementary mathematical ideas (30 hours)
8. Methods of musical education (60 hours)
9. Methods of labor training and constructive technical work (30 hours)
10. Economics of education (45 hours)
11. Marketing in education (30 hours)
12. Speech therapy (30 hours)
13. History of art (60 hours)
14. Theory of literature (30 hours)
15. History and theory of fine art (60 hours)
16. History and theory of stage art (60 hours)
17. Musical literature for children (30 hours)
18. Musical folklore for children (30 hours)
19. Music therapy (45 hours)
20. Musical aesthetics (30 hours)
21. Musical analysis (30 hours)

V. Psychological and Pedagogic Cycle

1. Social psychology (30 hours)
2. Psychology of creation (30 hours)
3. Psychology of learning (30 hours)
4. Psychodiagnostics (60 hours)
5. Musical psychology (45 hours)
6. Psychology & pedagogics of children with inhibitions in their development (45 hours)
7. Psychotherapy (30 hours)
8. Didactics (45 hours)
9. Comparative pedagogics (45 hours)
10. Pedagogical ethics (30 hours)
11. Chemical education at the preschool age (45 hours)

Methods Block

1. Methods of environmental education (90 hours)
2. Methods of computer education in kindergarten (60 hours)
3. Methods of art activities at nursery schools (90 hours)
4. Methods of musical education at early and preschool age (90 hours)
5. Methods of physical education (90 hours)
6. Methods of recitation (60 hours)

VI. General Applied Knowledge Cycle

1. Foreign language (60 hours)
2. Computer literacy (45 hours)
3. Computer games for children of preschool age (60 hours)
4. Solfeggio (45 hours)
5. Harmony (30 hours)
6. Musical instruments (60 hours)
7. Choir singing (60 hours)
8. Choreography (60 hours)
9. Puppet art (45 hours)
10. Manipulative construction and modelling at the preschool age (45 hours)
11. Art activities (60 hours)

Students who successfully complete a shorter version of this curriculum receive the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Document 4a.) or the *Svidetelstvo za Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Document 4b.), which indicate the teacher qualification (*Uchitel*). Those completing the full 4-year program receive the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* indicating the teaching qualification (*Uchitel*). (See Document 5.)

Primary School Teacher Training

The 12 semi-higher pedagogical institutes also provide training for the nation's primary school teachers. Under the guidance of university faculties of pedagogy, these institutes offer teacher training programs that have varied from 2.5 to 3.5 years of study.

More advanced teacher training opportunities are available in two higher teacher training institutions—the Higher Teacher Training Institute in Blagoevgrad and the Higher Pedagogical Institute "*Konstantin Preslavski*" in Shoumen. Following successful completion of 3 years of study, students earn the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazavie* or the *Svidetelstvo za Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* with the title *Uchitel* indicated. The diploma will indicate the program followed, primary teacher training. A second stage of study for prospective primary school teachers requires an additional 2 years and culminates in the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* for primary school teachers.

The subjects that are typically taught in the higher teacher training institutes for the training of primary school teachers are separated into subject areas or "blocks" as follows:

Social Sciences (150 hours)
Psychology (195 hours)
Pedagogics (345 hours)
Modern Bulgarian language (150 hours)
Methods of teaching music (105 hours)
Methods of teaching sports/P.E. (240 hours [student's choice])
Methods of teaching foreign language (180 hours)
Methods of teaching a musical instrument (105 hours)

Secondary School Teacher Training

The major responsibility for the training of secondary school teachers rests with the two higher education institutes and the universities. The various departments or faculties organized for the training of secondary teachers are considering changes to update their programs. Fine arts and technological institutions offer programs to train teachers in their respective areas. (See Appendix A for current information at the time of publication.)

The secondary teacher training program duration is 5 years. The credential earned is the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* with the qualification *Uchitel, Sredno* (secondary education) indicated. A subject specialization, if completed, will also be indicated.

The Higher Institute of Physical Education, or National Sports Academy, also known as the *Vissh Institut za Fisiceska Kultura 'Gveorgui Dimitrov'* ('Gveorgui Dimitrov' Institute of Physical Culture), offers pedagogical courses for physical education teachers with specializations in Teacher in Physical Education, Coach (for certain sports disciplines), and Kinesitherapist (training for diagnostic, remedial, and rehabilitation activity).

Three stages of study are provided by the National Sports Academy. The first stage comprises obligatory courses in the following areas, depending upon the specialization chosen:

General theory: Psychology, pedagogy and statistics, theory and methods of physical education, biomechanics, sports management, foreign language training, and the history of physical culture and sport.
Social: Philosophy and sociology.
Medical-biological: Anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, kinesitherapy-physical therapy, sports medicine, and sports massage.
Sports pedagogical: Track and field athletics, gymnastics, swimming, sports games, tourism-alpinism, didactic games, and rhythm and dances.
Special: Theory and methods of sports training in acrobatics, basketball, badminton, wrestling—classic and free style, weight lifting, boxing, wind-surfing, water skiing, water polo, volleyball, rowing, judo, canoe-kayak, karate, cycling, riding, body-building, swimming, rugby, synchronized swimming, skiing, ski-racing, biathlon, ski-jumping, bow shooting, sports gymnastics, sports shooting, tennis, table-tennis, tourism-alpinism, tourism-orientation, fencing, figure skating, football, ice-hockey, artistic gymnastics, chess, and sledging.

The second stage of the curriculum includes voluntary subjects, which the students select according to their personal interest and individual needs: general economic theory, mass physical culture, power training, and informatics.

The third stage includes optional subjects that are not obligatory for the student: golf, aerobics, and Eastern combat arts.

Every person who graduates is trained in two of the specializations. The *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* is awarded at the end of the program of studies with the specializations noted.

In-Service Teacher Training

A significant organization in Bulgaria is the Central Institute of In-Service Training of Teachers in Sofia, designed to provide all such training nationwide. Short-term courses are offered to teachers, with the subject matter often concerning a particular issue in the field of education or training. The request for such courses might come from the school principal or even a group of teachers themselves. It might be in the area of student discipline, building relationships with parents, faculty-administration relationships, proper use of new technology, understanding curricular changes, or a crash review of course content. The Central Institute is responsible for retraining teachers in new specializations by providing sessions called modules which meet for 2 to 3 weeks, three times a year. Four- to five-thousand participate yearly in these programs. With the decline in demand for Russian language study, many former teachers of Russian have been retrained through these programs. Certificates awarded at the end of in-service

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courses indicate the length of the course and the area of specialization. (See Document 9.)

Teachers graduating from semi-higher institutes and from higher institutes are on the same salary scale. To move from the second class to the first class salary scale, a teacher must take an examination, attend a one-month course, write and defend a thesis, and publish in a respected journal. Only about 10% of the teachers ever become first class salaried teachers.

Theology

While functioning as a Communist state, Bulgaria gave the study of theology very little emphasis. Today, new seminaries are emerging and established institutions are reviving their former theological faculties or establishing new ones. The Baptist Union of Bulgaria and the Pentecostal churches are planning new seminaries, but as yet, degrees are not being awarded. A private semi-higher institution is preparing religious leaders for the Islamic Turkish minority of Bulgaria.

Today, Sofia University has a Faculty of Theology and awards the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* after 5 years of study. After an additional 3 years of fulltime study or 4 years part-time, students may earn the *Kandidat na Naukite.* Further extensive research and defense of a dissertation may lead to the *Doktor na Naukite* in theological studies.

Cyril and Methodius University has a Faculty of Theology and Biblical Studies with eight separate departments, which offer programs of 5 years' duration leading to the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie.*

Tourism

Only one higher institute has been established for the purpose of aiding the development of tourism in Bulgaria. This is the Higher Institute of International Tourism in Varna, where programs of 4 years of study lead to the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie.* Additionally, two semi-higher institutes operate to meet the basic staffing needs of the nation's fledgling tourist industry—one located in Burgas, the other in Varna. Both institutes offer two programs, one in Hotel and Restaurant Management and one in Tourist Services Management. Both lead to the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Document 4a) with the specialization noted, and both are 3 years in length. In addition, the institute offers numerous short-term programs related to tourism, completion of which lead to a certificate.

Sofia University's Faculty of Economics and Business Administration also offers coursework in economic geography and management of tourism in the Business Administration Department.

Following is the curriculum for the certificate awarded by the Institute of International Tourism, Varna:

1. French- written
2. French- oral
3. History
4. Geography of Tourism
5. Stocks
6. German- written
7. German- oral
8. French- written
9. French- oral
10. German- written
11. German- oral
12. Physical Education
13. Economics
14. Tourism
15. Government
16. Ethics
17. Accounting
18. Machines
19. French- written
20. French- oral
21. German- written
22. German- oral
23. French- written
24. French- oral
25. German- written
26. German- oral
27. Typing
28. Philosophy
29. Economics of Food & Beverage
30. Physical Education
31. French- written
32. French- oral
33. German- written
34. German- oral
35. Correspondence
36. Economics of Hotel Business
37. Philosophy
38. Hotel Business
39. Technique of Service

State examinations are required in the following subjects:

1. French- written
2. French- oral
3. German- written
4. German- oral
5. Economics of Restaurant & Hotel Business
6. Practice

Chapter 6

Guidelines for Admissions Officers

General Advice

All aspects of higher education in Bulgaria are in a state of flux. The changes that were envisioned and proposed in 1990 were still not in place by early 1994. Therefore, in this volume, the features of the system are denoted as either "pre-1990" or "proposed beginning in 1990."

There are as many as four different translations for names of the same higher education institution. Refer to Appendix A for the most current list of postsecondary institutions, their officially recognized names and institutional profiles. Appendix A, Higher Education Institutions in Bulgaria as of 1993, is to the best of our knowledge complete and accurate. If the name indicated on a credential does not match the name of an institution on either of the lists in Appendix A, check the address listed, which may provide a clue as to whether or not the institution from which you have a transcript actually exists and is recognized.

Additionally, the country is yet to settle into a comfortable consensus regarding titles for qualifications. The trend is to move away from the Russian system of awarding qualifications and titles, and toward the Western concept of conferring degrees. Some institutions are already issuing diplomas reflecting degrees, even though the Ministry of Education has not officially approved these changes.

The term "*zavarsheno*" ("completed") is omitted on some diplomas, so some credential names may not include this term, e.g., *Diploma za Visshe Obrazovanie*. This practice does not appear to be universal, and there is no special significance attached to this change. A program must be successfully completed before any diplomas are issued. Documents similar to U.S. transcripts, indicating courses completed and grades earned, may be obtained from institutions previously attended upon request of the student .

Bulgarian Evaluations

The Bulgarian view of their educational credentials may be reflected in translations received by North American admissions officers. For example, the stage one *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* is sometimes translated as "Master of Arts" or "Master of Science," a view not shared by North American educators. (See Appendix B, Document 6 for an example of diplomas issued to foreign students by Bulgarian authorities.) Credential evaluators should keep in mind that this is a qualification awarded for the completion of an undergraduate program. The placement recommendations, therefore, do not suggest awarding graduate credit. Similarly, following the completion of stage one and the award of the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie*, the second stage requires a minimum of 3 years of study and research, as well as a dissertation for the *Kandidat na Naukite* (Candidate of Science). This credential is often translated by Bulgarian authorities as "Ph.D." but we refer you to Placement Recommendation number 10 and the Council Commentary. Additional pure research culminates in the credential *Doktor na Naukite*. There is no equivalent for this credential in the U.S. system of higher education, although Bulgarians consider it to be more advanced than the U.S. Ph.D. degree.

Five Basic Credentials

The Bulgarian system is not complex, if one bears in mind that there are five basic credentials awarded for the completion of programs of study beyond the compulsory years of primary education (grades 1-8). These are: the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Secondary Education); the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Semi-Higher Education), awarded by the semi-higher institutes; the *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education), awarded by both the higher institutes and the universities; the *Diploma za Spetsialnost* (Diploma of Specialization in a field), a postgraduate credential; and the *Kandidat na Naukite* (Candidate of Science), representing completion of a 3-year fulltime postgraduate program. Note that semi-higher diplomas may be issued by either higher institutes or universities for programs that are at the semi-higher level. The term *Svidetelstvo* (Certificate) appears in place of *Diploma* on older credentials at both the secondary and semi-higher level (see Chapter 4, pg. 21 and Appendix B Document 4). Other credentials represent either additional information concerning a basic diploma, or in-service training. For example, the *Svidetelstvo za Spetsializatsia* (Certificate of Specialization [Post-graduate]) is another credential, similar to the *Diploma za Spetsialnost*, representing further specialized training in a specific field of study (e.g., obstetrics, tropical medicine). See Appendix B, Document 8 for a sample of the *Svidetelstvo za Spetsializatsia*.

Additional Comments

A transcript of subjects taken with grades earned is an integral part of every diploma. Students should have no trouble in providing a copy.

It appears that Bulgarians use interchangeably the pronouns "*na*" (for) and "*po*" (of) in referring to qualifications. "*Po*" may be more typical on the professional diplomas, as reflected in this volume's text and the placement recommendations.

The institutional profiles in Appendix A do not list all the programs, such as programs offered to train teachers in specific fields of study. However, the higher institutes do offer teacher training in specialized disciplines.

One component of the proposed Education Reform Bill is the restructuring of tertiary education along U.S. lines, with a 4-year first degree program, followed by a 2-year master's degree program, and at the end, a doctoral program. This structure has not yet been approved although, during our in-country visits, some institutions reported to PIER researchers that new 4-year programs were already in place. The contents however, had not changed from that of the 5-year programs. As none of these anticipated diplomas had been awarded at the time of the PIER workshop, they are not included in the section on placement recommendations (see below).

Admissions officers may obtain further information by contacting the Ministry directly:

Ministry of Education and Science
Blvd. Dondukov 2
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
Tel: (359-2) 84-81
Fax: (359-2) 871-289

The Role of the National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials

The National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials (the Council) is an interassociational group that provides guidelines for interpreting foreign educational credentials for the placement of holders of these credentials in U.S. educational institutions. Its main purpose is to review, modify, and approve placement recommendations drafted for publications used by the U.S. admissions community. The Council also helps establish priorities, research guidelines, and review procedures for international admissions publications. The Council participates in international meetings that involve foreign educational credentials for the purpose of international exchanges of students and scholars. The membership of the Council reflects the diversity of U.S. educational institutions for which recommendations are made. See page 77 for a listing of the Council member organizations and their representatives.

The placement recommendations approved by the Council identify the level or stage of education represented by an educational credential and thus the appropriate placement of the holder of the credential in U.S. educational institutions. Council recommendations are not directives, nor do they make judgments about the quality of programs and schools. Quality indicators may be provided by the author in the text. The effective use of placement recommendations depends on careful review of the supporting text in the publication and consideration of individual institutional placement policies and practices.

The Council suggests that institutions apply the same standards for a foreign applicant as for a U.S. applicant with a similar educational background. Recommendations reflect U.S. philosophy and structure of education and so may differ from practices within the educational system being reviewed.

Guide to the Understanding of Placement Recommendations for Bulgaria

The National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials has approved the placement recommendations published in this PIER workshop report in consultation with the workshop director and co-editors.

Over the years, certain phrases used repeatedly in the recommendations have acquired specific meanings within Council usage. To assist the reader in understanding the intent of these phrases, the Council has prepared the following index to the meanings of placement recommendations that appear specifically in this workshop report.

Questions or comments about Council placement recommendations should be sent to: Chair, National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials, c/o AACRAO, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 330, Washington, DC 20036-1171.

Secondary

May be placed in grade ...

This recommendation is used if freshman admission cannot be recommended, but specific secondary school placement is suggested by the total years of primary and secondary school studies represented by the credential.

Primarily a vocational qualification.

This statement is used for credentials awarded for secondary nonacademic training programs in specific job-related fields (e.g., apprenticeships). Admission does not usually require a specific background. The credentials do not give access to higher education.

May be considered for freshman admission.

This recommendation is for graduates of academic, university-preparatory secondary school programs and other programs that can be considered for freshman admission without reservations or qualifiers.

Undergraduate

May be considered for undergraduate admission with transfer credit determined through a course-by-course analysis.

This recommendation sets the maximum amount of credit, depending on the length of study, for a university program. The phrasing "course-by-course analysis" asks the evaluator to look carefully at course contents, such as course descriptions from catalogues, in order to determine the appropriateness of transfer credit.

Graduate or Advanced Professional Admission

May be considered for graduate admission.

This recommendation is used if the program of study is considered to provide adequate preparation for graduate study, without reservation or qualifiers. Normally such a program represents a total of 16 years of education and gives access to graduate education within the foreign system. This recommendation may be used for programs requiring more than 16 years of study if no graduate transfer credit is recommended.

May be considered to represent a level of achievement beyond the U.S. master's degree and, depending on the nature of the research and dissertation, may be comparable to the requirements of a U.S. doctoral degree. Each case should be evaluated individually. *(This statement is self-explanatory.)*

Represents recognition of published postdoctoral scholarly research.

This statement is used if the holder of the credential has completed scholarly research that has been published as a condition of the credential. In some cases, such as the German ***Habilitation*** and the French ***Habilitation a diriger des recherches***, the credential is an entitlement to the highest university positions.

A first professional degree in... [medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, law]. May be considered for graduate admission.

This statement is used to point out the first professional degrees awarded in a particular field. No graduate transfer credit is awarded. While preparation for the profession occurs at the graduate level in the U.S., it occurs at the undergraduate level in many foreign educational systems.

Represents the completion of a specialization in... [medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine].

This statement is used for credentials awarded for completion of a medicine or dentistry-related specialization, following the first professional degree in the field.

Council Commentary

Council Commentary is provided by the Council to accompany or supplement a placement recommendation or explain its absence. It is used for important points in an educational system to clarify placement recommendations and their interpretation by U.S. institutions or to provide advice and/or commentary if no placement recommendation is given.

Council Commentary may be used to discuss the reasoning behind a placement recommendation or how a recommendation may be interpreted or implemented:

- When a placement recommendation for a credential is lower than or higher than the access to further education provided by that credential in the home country;
- When a placement recommendation merits caution about determining admissibility and placement of individual students;
- When a complicated recommendation requires further interpretation.

Council Commentary may be used to provide advice if no placement recommendation is given, as when:

- Completion of a portion of a program without receiving the degree may merit admission consideration at a particular level;
- Advice on evaluating partial completion of a program may be useful for determining transfer credit, for example for a study abroad program;
- A program or credential may not fit into the placement recommendation format, but descriptive advice would assist in the assessment of an appropriate placement.

Placement Recommendations

Name of Credential	Entrance Requirement	Length of Study	Gives Access in Bulgaria to	Placement Recommendation
Primary Education				
1. *Svidetelstvo za Zavarsheno Osnovno Obrazovanie* (Certificate of Completed Primary Education) (pp. 8,12)	Age 7	8 years	Secondary education	May be placed in grade 9.
Secondary Education				
2. *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie (DZSO)* (Diploma of Completed Secondary Education, pre-1990), prior to 1974 called *Zrelostno Svidetelstvo* (Maturity Certificate), from unified or polytechnical school *(ESPU)*, secondary professional technical school *(SPTU)* or technical vocational school *(tekhnikum)* (p. 9)	Certificate of Completed Primary Education	3-5 years	Tertiary education	May be considered for freshman admission.
3. *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie (DZSO)* (Diploma of Completed Secondary Education, proposed beginning 1990) from gymnasium/academic secondary school *(SOU)*, secondary professional technical school *(SPTU)*, or technical vocational school *(tekhnikum)* (pp. 12-14)	Certificate of Completed Primary Education	4-5 years	Tertiary education	May be considered for freshman admission.

Name of Credential	**Entrance Requirement**	**Length of Study**	**Gives Access in Bulgaria to**	**Placement Recommendation**
4. *Svidetelstvo* (Certificate) from a professional technical school *(PTU)* (p. 9)	Certificate of Completed Primary Education	1-2 years	Employment	Primarily a vocational credential.
5. *Udostoverenie za Poluvissha Tekhnicheska Praktika*, a qualification for technicians (pp. 10, 14)	Diploma of Completed Secondary Education from a *tekhnikum*	1-2 years	Employment	Primarily a vocational credential; admission and placement should be based on other credentials.
6. *Kvalifikatsiran Rabotnik* (Qualified worker), awarded in conjunction with the Diploma of Completed Secondary Education from an *SPTU* (pp. 10, 14)	Certificate of Completed Primary Education	See p. 10	Employment	Primarily a vocational qualification; admission and placement should be based on other credentials.
Tertiary Education				
7. *Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Semi-Higher Education) with qualification noted (pp. 18, 20-21)	Diploma of Completed Secondary Education and entrance examination	2-3.5 years	Further education or employment	May be considered for undergraduate admission with transfer credit determined through a course-by-course analysis.
8. *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education) with qualification, such as Engineer *(Inzhener)*, Architect *(Arkhitekt)*, or Teacher *(Uchitel)*, noted (pp. 18-21, 24-26)	Diploma of Completed Secondary Education and entrance examination	4-5.5 years	Further education or employment	May be considered for graduate admission.

9. *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education) with qualification as a Lawyer *(Pravo)* (p. 31)	Diploma of Completed Secondary Education and entrance examination	5.5 years	Further education or employment	A first professional degree in law; may be considered for graduate admission.
10. *Kandidat na Naukite* (Candidate of Science) or *Kandidat na* ... (field) *Nauki* (Candidate of the ... [field] Sciences) in fields such as agriculture, chemistry, computer science, engineering, mathematics, physics, veterinary medicine. (p. 21)	Diploma of Completed Higher Education	3 years minimum	Further education or employment	May be considered to represent a level of achievement beyond the U.S. master's degree and, depending on the nature of the research and dissertation, may be comparable to the requirements of a U.S. doctoral degree. Each case should be evaluated individually. Also see Council Commentary below.
11. *Doktor na Naukite* (Doctor of Science) (p. 21)	Candidate of Science	Variable	Employment	Represents recognition of published postdoctoral scholarly research.
Medical Education				
12. *Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completed Higher Education) with qualification of:				
a. *Doktor po Stomatologija* or *Stomatolog* (Doctor of Dentistry or Dentist) (p. 27)	Diploma of Completed Secondary Education and entrance examination	5.5 years	Further education or employment	A first professional degree in dentistry; may be considered for graduate admission.
b. *Doktor po Meditsina* or *Lekar* (Doctor of Medicine or Physician) (p. 28)	Diploma of Completed Secondary Education and entrance examination	6 years	Further education or employment	A first professional degree in medicine; may be considered for graduate admission.
c. *Doktor po Veterinarna Meditsina* (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) (pp. 29-30)	Diploma of Completed Secondary Education and entrance examination	5.5 years	Further education or employment	A first professional degree in veterinary medicine; may be considered for graduate admission.

Name of Credential	**Entrance Requirement**	**Length of Study**	**Gives Access in Bulgaria to**	**Placement Recommendation**
d. *Magister-Farmatsevt* (Master Pharmacist) (pp. 28-29)	Diploma of Completed Secondary Education and entrance examination	5 years	Further education or employment	A first professional degree in pharmacy; may be considered for graduate admission.
13. *Diploma za Spetsialnost* (Diploma of Specialization) (p. 22)	Diploma of Completed Higher Education with appropriate professional qualification	1.5-4 years	Further education or employment	Represents the completion of a specialization in a field, e.g., pharmacy, dentistry, medicine, veterinary medicine.

Council Commentary:

Taking into consideration the admissions and degree award requirements (see text), which are similar to those characterizing a U.S. doctorate, the selectivity of the system at all levels of education, and the number of *kandidat* holders (only six percent of higher education graduates), a minority number of Council members thought that the *kandidat na naukite* should be considered comparable to an earned doctorate (Ph.D.) in the United States. Note that according to the *International Guide to Qualifications in Education* of The British Council National Academic Recognition Information Centre, the *kandidat na naukite* is comparable to a Ph.D. in the United Kingdom.

Appendix A

Higher Educational Institutions In Bulgaria (as of Spring 1993)

Semi-Higher Institutes

Semi-Higher Allied Health Institutes (Ministry of Public Health)

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Blagoevgrad
Parvostepenna Obshtinska Bolniza
2700 Blagoevgrad
Telephone: 73 25 983

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Burgas
"Antim I" 6 St.
8000 Burgas
Telephone: 56 42 705

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Haskovo
"Lenin" 267 St.
6300 Haskovo
Telephone: 38 28 476

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Pleven
"G. Dimitrov" 77 St.
Telephone: 64 22 577

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Plovdiv
"Bratya Chaplikovi" 125 St.
4000 Plovdiv
Telephone: 32 77 23 47

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Ruse
"G. Genov" 6 St.
Telephone: 82 25 070

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Shoumen
"Gen. Skobelev" 25 St.
9700 Shoumen
Telephone: 54 56 548

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Sliven
"Gen. Stoletov" 30 St.
8800 Sliven
Telephone: 44 22 855

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Sofia
St. "J. Filaretova" 3
Telephone: 2 52 62 67

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Sofia
"Zdrave" 2 St.
Telephone: 2 51 72 77

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Stara Zagora
"Gen. Zvyatko Radoinov" 36 St.
Telephone: 42 22 855

Semi-Higher Institute for Medicine in Veliko Tarnovo
"Krakov" 1 St.
5000 Veliko Tarnovo
Telephone: 62 28 476

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institutes (Ministry of Education and Science)

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Burgas
Complex "Slaveikov"
8000 Burgas
Telephone: 56 84 185; Fax: 68 40 58
Director: Todor Hadjipetrov
Telephone: 56 8 40 58

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Dobrich
Complex "Dobrotiza"
9300 Dobrich
Telephone: 58 2 72 09
Director: Mitko Bojilov
Telephone: 58 2 45 09

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Doupnitza
2600 Doupnitza
Telephone: 701 2 59 80; Fax: 2 80 25
Director: Maria Ivanova
Telephone: 701 2 22 05

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Jambol
38 "Graf Ignatiev" St.
8600 Jambol
Telephone: 46 3 26 75 Fax: 2 29 35
Director: Associate Professor Maria Roshmanova
Telephone: 46 2 99 54

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Kardjali
26 Lenin Blvd.
6600 Kardjali
Telephone: 361 2 21 36 Fax: 68 40 58
Director: Assistant Professor Stoyan Tanev
Telephone: 361 2 77 53

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Pazardjik
29 "Nefit Bozveli" St.
4400 Pazardjik
Telephone: 34 2 65 11 Fax: 2 34 21
Director: Alexandra Goumnerova
Telephone: 34 2 34 11

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Pleven
3 "Skala Tepe" St.
5800 Pleven
Telephone: 64 2 29 53 Fax: 4 02 21
Director: Margarita Toneva
Telephone: 64 2 29 53

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Ruse
"Zdravetz-iztok"
7000 Ruse
Telephone: 82 4 10 35 Fax: 4 11 44
Director: Associate Professor Tsetan Maximov
Telephone: 4 11 44

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Silistra
"Albena" St.
7500 Silistra
Telephone: 86 2 68 51 Fax: 2 68 51
Director: Associate Professor Vangel Kukov
Telephone: 86 2 80 43

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Silven
8800 Silven
Telephone: 44 8 79 55; Fax: 8 93 51
Director: Dimitar Petkov

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Smolyan
1 "Esperanto" St.
4700 Smolyan Tanev
Telephone: 301 3 22 65 Fax: 32265
Director: Dimitar Frenkov
Telephone: 301 3 22 50

Semi-Higher Pedagogical Institute in Vratza
Ucheben Kompleks, Korpus 3
3000 Vratza
Telephone: 92 2 52 30 Fax: 4 49 45
Director: Associate Professor Zlatka Petrova
Telephone: 92 4 61 23

Semi-Higher Technical and Economic Institutes

Semi-Higher Institute in Chemical Industry in Machinebuilding in Varna "Pochivka"
900 Varna
Telephone: 52 82 87 01 Fax: 82 87 05
Director: Stefan Karadjov
Telephone: 52 87 20 88

Semi-Higher Institute in Chemical Technologies and Biotechnologies in Razgrad
3 "Lenin" Blvd.
7200 Razgrad
Telephone: 084 2 10 51
Director: Ivanka Jeleva
Telephone: 84 2 52 49; Fax: 2 71 35

Semi-Higher Institute in Chemical Technologies and Biotechnologies in Sofia
3 "Sredorek" St.
1619 Sofia
Telephone: 57 31 50
Director: Dinka Milcheva
Telephone: 57 51 55

Semi-Higher Institute in Economics and Management in Svishtov
59 "Tzar Osvoboditel" St.
5250 Svishtov
Telephone: 631 22 866
Director: Georgi Denev
Telephone: 631 2 47 19; Fax: 2 47 19

Semi-Higher Institute in Machinebuilding and Electrotechnique in Blagoevgrad
5 "Al Velichkov" St.
2700 Blagoevgrad
Director: Ilia Smiljanov
Telephone: 2 10 26

Semi-Higher Institute in Machinebuilding and Electrotechnique in Burgas
101 "Aleksandrovska" St.
Telephone: 56 2 96 51; Fax: 2 05 89
Director: Alexander Kisirin
Telephone: 562 96 97

Semi-Higher Institute in Machinebuilding and Electrotechnique in Dobrich
Complex "Dobrotitza" bl. 12
9300 Dobrich
Telephone: 58 2 54 98; Fax: 2 54 98
Director: Maria Ingilizova
Telephone: 58 2 92 52

Semi-Higher Institute in Machinebuilding and Electrotechnique in Lovetch
31 "Georgi Ibanov" St.
5500 Lovetch
Telephone: 68 4 50 13; Fax: 4 20 38
Director: Associate Professor Vasil Kochevski
Telephone: 68 4 50 03

Semi-Higher Institute in Machinebuilding and Electrotechnique in Plovdiv
71 A "Bratja Chaplikovi" St.
4004 Plovdiv
Telephone: 32 26 44 96; Fax: 26 44 56
Director: Petar Petrov
Telephone: 32 77 34 56

Semi-Higher Institute in Machinebuilding and Electrotechnique in Silistra
P.B. 81
7500 Silistra
Telephone: 86 2 87 93; Fax: 6 20 26
Director: Jordan Dimitrov
Telephone: 862 72 74

Semi-Higher Institute in Machinebuilding and Electrotechnique
1 "Ovcha Kupel" Blvd.
1618 Sofia
Telephone: 56 31 13
Director: Petar Ivanchev
Telephone: 562 96 97

Semi-Higher Institute in Machinebuilding and Electrotechnique in Sofia
2 "Vasil Levski" Blvd.
1000 Sofia
Director: Associate Professor Miko Lakov
Telephone: 88 43 51/ 304

Semi-Higher Institute in Machinebuilding and Transport in Smoljan
9 "Esperanto" St.
4700 Smoljan
Telephone: 301 3 36 27; Fax: 3 29 28
Director: Hristo Hristov
Telephone: 301 3 36 43

Semi-Higher Institute in Microelectronics in Botevgrad
31 "V. Kolarov" St.
2140 Botevgrad
Telephone: 99 71 31 71 42; Fax: 71 89
Director: Zivko Georgiev
Telephone: 99 71 31 71 89

Semi-Higher Institute in Mining and Metalurgy in Kardjali
35 "Boulair" St. P.B. 157
6600 Kardjali
Telephone: 361 2 80 56
Director: Kantcho Iliev
Telephone: 361 2 78 79

Other Semi-Higher Institutes

Semi-Higher Institute in Tourism in Burgas
Director: Stojan Chora
Telephone: 056 2 48 06; Fax: 2 97 32

Semi-Higher Institute in Librarian Activity in Sofia
2 T Zarigradsko Shosse Blvd. 119
Sofia
Telephone: 79 11 60; Fax: 79 11 60
Director: Petar Petrov
Telephone: 79 01 66

Semi-Higher Institute in Communications in Sofia
Director: Donka Georgieva
Telephone: 62 28 93; 62 30 21

Semi-Higher Institute in Tourism in Varna
Director: Lili Kouzoharova
Telephone: 052 23 10 75; Fax: 23 10 75

(NOTE: In addition, a Semi-Higher Institute for Islamic Studies was in the process of being established, but details were not available at the time of this PIER workshop.)

Universities

(*This list provided, in translation, by the Ministry of Education and Science.)

Veliko Tarnovski Universitet 'Kiril I Metodi'
(Cyril and Methodius University in Veliko Tarnovo)
Ul. Theodossy Tarnovski, 1
Veliko Tarnovo 5000, Bulgaria
Tel: (35962) 20189/24984
Fax: (35962) 28023
History: The smallest of the three major universities in Bulgaria, Cyril and Methodius University was established in 1963 as a Higher Pedagogical Institute. The Institute became a university in 1971. A state institution, the governing body is an academic council.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-December and February-May
Enrollment: 5,000
Library: Approximately 200,000 volumes
Faculties:
History
Arts
Law
Mathematics & Informatics (computer science)
Modern Languages

Pedagogy
Theology & Biblical Studies
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with specialization and, where appropriate, the professional qualification, e.g., *Uchitel* [teacher], noted-5 years)
Kandidat na Naukite (new in 1992-1993): 3 years

Sofiski Universitet 'Kliment Ohridski'
(Kliment of Ohrid Sofia University, also known as University of Sofia)
Blvd. Ruski 15, P.O. Box 100
Sofia, 1000, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 801176/463118
Fax: (3592) 463589
History: Founded in 1888 as a Higher Pedagogical program with one faculty, it became a university in 1904, and by 1938 the number of faculties had increased to seven. Reorganization came in 1944 when the faculties of agriculture and medicine became separate institutions. Prior to 1990 the University was governed by a University Council presided over by the Rector, who was elected by the professors and lecturers for a 2-year period, and five Pro-Rectors plus the Faculty Council.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-December and February-May.
Enrollment: 16,000
Library: Exceeds one million volumes
Faculties:
Biology
Chemistry
Classical and Modern Philologies
Economics and Business
Education
Elementary School and Preschool Education
Free Faculty (Elective Courses)
Geology and Geography
History
Law
Mathematics and Informatics (Computer Science)
Philosophy
Physics
Slavic Philologies
Theology
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie: 5 years (with qualifications and professional titles noted)
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Plovdivski Universitet 'Paisii Hilendarski'
(Paissiy of Hilendar Plovdiv University, also known as University of Plovdiv)
Ul. Tsar Assen, 24
Plovdiv 4000, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 226238
Fax: (3592) 238607
History: Founded in 1961 as a Higher Teacher Training Institute, in 1972 it became Plovdivski Universitet 'Paisii Hilendarski.'
Academic Year: Two terms: September-December and February-May.
Enrollment: 9,000
Library: 200,000 volumes
Faculties:
Chemistry
Biology
Mathematics
Law
Faculty
Pedagogy
Physics
Philology
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie: 5 years (with professional title and specialization noted)
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

New Private Universities

The American University in Bulgaria
Blagoevgrad 2700, Bulgaria
Tel: (359) 73 23652
Fax: (359) 73 25218
History: Founded in 1991 as a private, selective, residential, undergraduate college with an emphasis on the liberal arts.
Enrollment: 400 in 1992-93. Anticipated full enrollment of 1,000 students.
Admission: Applicants must submit SAT scores for admission. For non-native English-speaking students, a 550 or better TOEFL score is required.
Credentials Awarded: At the present time a Bachelor of Arts degree program is offered with the following majors: Administration, Applied Economics, Computer Science, English, History, Journalism and Mass Communication, Political Science and International Relations, and Southeast European studies. (At the time of the PIER workshop visit, no credentials had been awarded. The first class will graduate in 1995.)

Burgas Free University (also known as *Svoboden* University)
Ul. Alexandrovska, 01
Burgas 8000, Bulgaria
Tel. (35956) 21025
Fax (35956) 29567

History: Founded in December, 1990 in Burgas, Bulgaria's fourth largest city. Fees are charged and admission is selective.

Enrollment: 1,500

Departments: Initially, only the study of law was offered. Majors in the following areas have been added: business, agriculture, mathematics, pedagogy, and early childhood education. All programs are 4 years in length; patterned after U.S. model.

Credentials Awarded (Proposed):
Bachelor's credentials: 4 years (As of the time of the field work for this PIER Workshop report no credentials had been awarded.)

New Bulgarian University
P.O. Box 669
1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 815784
Fax: (3592) 880902

History: Established September 1991, it is officially recognized as a non-governmental organization with university status.

Programs of Study: Applied Linguistics, Psychology, Clinical Social Work, Informatics and Cognitive Science. A number of graduate level programs were planned for the 1994 fall semester. Diploma and certificate programs in Business Administration and Business Management, Public Relations, Journalism, and Information and Computer Science are also available.

Special Programs: Each semester, the *Continuing Education School* offers approximately 150 courses in law, administration, business and management, applied psychology, cognitive science, information and computer science, and the humanities. These courses are open to people wishing to acquire new qualifications or simply to update their skills and knowledge. Some courses require an undergraduate degree and/or some practical experience while others are open to all. The duration of each course may vary but usually requires at least 30 hours of classroom instruction

The *Distance Learning School* or *Radio University* offers introductory courses in Law and Economics, Commercial Law, Business Management, Marketing, and Business Finance.

Credentials Awarded: (As of the time of the field work for this PIER Workshop report no credentials had been awarded.)

Projected: Future plans for NBU include the establishment of a Law Department and a School of Business and Management.

Higher Institutes

Agriculture

***Vissh Institut Po Hranitelna I Vkusova Promislenost* (Higher Institute of Food and Flavor Industry, also known as Higher Institute of Food, Beverage, and Tobacco Industries in Plovdiv)**
Blvd. Maritza, 26
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 44181
Fax: (35932) 440102

History: Established in 1948 as the Department of Agricultural Technology of the University of Plovdiv, the department became the Faculty of Food Technology in 1950, and in 1953 became the Institute of Food Industry.

Enrollment: 2,500

Faculties:
Technical
Technological

Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

***Vissh Institut Po Zootehnika I Veterinarna Medicina* (Higher Institute of Animal Husbandry And Veterinary Medicine)**
Ul.D. Blageov, 62
Stara Zagora 6000, Bulgaria
Tel: (35942) 2803/39024
Fax: (35942) 34102

History: Founded as a Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Sofia in 1921. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine began in 1923. In 1953 it became the Professor G. Pavlov Higher Institute of Veterinary Medicine. In 1974 the Institute moved from Sofia to Stara Zagora and became an independent institution known as the Higher Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine.

Academic Year: Two terms: October-January and February-July

Faculties:
Animal Husbandry Technology
Veterinary Medicine

Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with title *Doktor po Veterinarna Meditsina* indicated): 5-5.5 years

Kandidat na Naukite: 3.5 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential
Proposed after 1992-93: *Doktor po Veterinarnomeditsina* : 5.5 years

Vissh Lesothniceski Institut **(Institute of Forestry, also known as Higher Technical Institute of Sofia)**
Blvd. Kliment Ohridski, 10
Sofia 1156, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 622830
Fax: (3592) 680335
History: Founded in 1925 as part of the Faculty of Agriculture at University of Sofia. In 1949 a Faculty of Timber Processing Technology was added, and in 1953 both faculties were reorganized into the Higher Technical Institute of Sofia. It is now known as the Institute of Forestry.
Academic Year: Two terms: September- January and March-June
Enrollment: 1,200
Library: 100,000
Faculties:
Wood Technology
Economics and Landscape Architecture
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with the professional title of *Inzhener* and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Vissh Selskostopanski Institut 'Vassil Kolarov' **(Kolarov Higher Institute of Agriculture)**
Ul. Mendeleev, 12
Plovdiv 4000, Bulgaria
Tel No. (35932) 224100
Fax: (35932) 233157
History: Founded in 1945, in 1955 adopted the name of the distinguished Bulgarian State leader, Vassil Kolarov.
Academic Year: Two terms: October-January and March-June
Enrollment: 3,000
Library: 230,000+
Faculties:
Plant and Soil Protection
Agronomy
Horticulture
Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture
Free Faculty (Elective Courses)
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years

Business Economics

Vissh Finansovo-Stopanski Institut 'D.A. Tsenov' **(Institute of Finance and Economics, also known as D. Tsenov Economics Academy)**
Ul. Emmanuel Chakarov, 2
Svishtov 5250, Bulgaria
Tel: (359631) 22091
Fax: (359631) 23472
History: Founded in 1936 as a school of commerce, the institution became a school of economics and social studies in 1948. In 1952 it acquired the name *Vissh Finansovo-Stopanski Institut 'D.A. Tsenov'* (Institute of Finance and Economics).
Academic Year: Two terms: September-January and February-June
Enrollment: 5,500
Library: 200,000 volumes
Faculties:
Accountancy
Finance
Production and Trade Business
Management and Marketing
Free Faculty (Elective Courses)
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with the professional title of *Ikonomist* and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Vissh Institut Za Narodno Stopanstvo 'Dimitre Blagoev' **(Institute of National Economics, also known as Dimitre Blagoev Higher Institute of Economic Management in Varna)**
Blvd. Kniaz Boris, 1, 77
Varna 9002, Bulgaria
Tel: (35952) 21351/228164
Fax: (35952) 235680
History: Founded in 1920 as a trade school under the name Higher School of Commerce, and known through the years as the Academy of Commerce or simply 'The Academy." From 1942 to 1945 it was known as the Higher School of Business and Social Sciences, and from 1945 to 1953 it was called Higher School of National Economy (sometimes translated as Institute of National Economics).
Enrollment: 7,235
Faculties:
Business Administration
Finance and Accounting
World Economy
Management and Law

Computer Science
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional titles and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Vissh Ikonomiceski Institut 'Karl Marx' **(Karl Marx Higher Institute of Economics)**
Studenski grad Christov Botev
Sofia 1185, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 629313/63381
Fax: (3592) 689029
History: Founded in 1920 as the autonomous University of Political and Economic Sciences, the name was changed in 1938 to the State Higher School for Financial and Administrative Sciences. In 1947 it merged with the Department of State Economics and the Faculty of Law of Sofia University and became a Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences. On 1951, it separated from Sofia University, and became an autonomous establishment with its current title.
Enrollment: 7,600
Faculties:
Foreign Languages and Applied Linguistics
Humanities
Infrastructure and Services
Open Faculty (Elective Courses)
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title of *Ikonomist* and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Engineering and Technology

Vissh Tehnicesko Ucilisce 'Angel Kancev' **(Angel Kunchev Higher School of Technology in Ruse)**
Ul. Komsomalska, 8
Ruse 7004, Bulgaria
Tel: (35982) 51092
Fax: (35982) 55145
History: Founded in 1954 as the Institute of Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture, this institution became known as the Angel Kunchev Higher School of Technology in Ruse.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-January and February-July
Enrollment: 5,000
Library: 200,000 volumes
Faculties:
Agricultural Mechanization
Automobile and Transport Engineering
Electrical Engineering, Electronics, and Automation
Foreign Students
Mechanical Engineering and Technology
Postgraduate Studies
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title of *Inzhener* and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Vissh Institut Po Arkitectura I Stoitelstvo **(Higher Institute of Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Geodesy)**
Blvd. Hristo Smirnenski, 1
Sofia 1421, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 63621/666770
Fax: (3592) 656863
History: Founded in 1942 as a higher technical school, the institution became a polytechnic in 1947, and the Institute of Architecture and Civil Engineering in 1953. In 1977 the Institute's name was changed to Higher Institute of Architecture and Civil Engineering.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-December and February-June
Enrollment: 4,300
Faculties:
Architecture
Geodesy
Construction
Transportation
Hydrodrotechnics
Free Faculty (Elective Courses, offered only at night)
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Vissh Himikotehnologiceski Institut **(Higher Institute of Chemical Technology, also known as Professor Dr. Assen Zlatarov Higher Institute of Chemical Engineering in Burgas)**
Ul. Prof. Jakimov, 1
Burgas 8010, Bulgaria
Tel: (35956) 60119
Fax: (35956) 86141
History: Founded in 1963 under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education; financed by the State.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-December and February-June

Enrollment: 1,200
Library: 26,000 volumes
Faculties:
Inorganic Chemical Technology
Organic Chemical Technology
Free Faculty (Elective Courses)
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title of *Inzhener* and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years

Vissh Himikotehnologiceski Institut **(Higher Institute of Chemical Technology)**
Ul. Kliment Ohridski, 8
Sofia 1756, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 681043
Fax: (3592) 685488
History: Founded in 1945 as a department within the State Polytechnic Institute, and became an autonomous higher education center in 1953 when the Polytechnic was divided into four separate institutions. Named then the Institute of Chemical Technology, and since 1965 renamed the Higher Institute of Chemical Technology, Sofia.
Enrollment: 15,000
Library: 20,000 volumes
Faculties:
Automatics
Electrical Engineering
Power Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Machine Building
Electronic Engineering and Technology
Communications Engineering and Technology
Transportation Engineering
Computer Systems and Control
Humanities
Management
Branch Campuses: In addition to the Sofia campus, the Higher Institute of Chemical Technology has five branches where students are trained in the following specialities: Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (Plovdiv), Robotics (Stara Zagora), Microprocessor Engineering (Pravets), Microelectronics (Botevgrad), and Training Engineers for Secondary Level Teaching Careers (Sliven).
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title of *Inzhener* and specialization noted) : 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Vissh Masinno-Elektrotehniceski Institut **(Higher Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering)**
Ul. Hadji Dimitr 4
Gabrovo 5300, Bulgaria
Tel: (35966) 29511/23104
Fax: (35966) 24856
History: Founded in 1964 as an institute for technical training via correspondence courses, it later became the Higher School of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering with a regular program.
Enrollment: 4,200
Faculties:
Electrical Engineering and Electronics
In-Service Training
Industrial Management
Machine and Instrument Building
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional qualification of *Inzhener* and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years

Vissh Masinno-Elektrotehniceski Institut 'V.I. Lenin' **(Higher Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, also known as V.I. Lenin Institute of Electronic Engineering in Sofia)**
Hristo Botev Student Township
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 877870
Fax: (3592) 877870
History: Founded in 1945 as the Ecole` Polytechnique` with only the Faculty of Machine Technology. In 1953, the State Polytechnic Institute was divided into four separate higher education institutions, V.I. Lenin Institute of Electronic Engineering in Sofia being one of them.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-December and February-May
Enrollment: 13,000
Branch Campuses: There are four branches in addition to the Sofia campus: Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Sliven, and Pernik.
Faculties:
Automatics
Communications Engineering and Technology
Computer Systems and Control
Electrical Engineering
Electronic Engineering and Technology
Engineering Education and Industrial Management
German
Humanities
Machine-Building
Management

Mechanical Technology Engineering
Power and Machine Engineering
Transport Studies
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title of *Inzhener* and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years

***Vissh Masinno-Elektrotehniceski Institut* (Higher Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering)**
Ul. Studentska
Varna 9010, Bulgaria
Tel: (35952) 880161/880165
Fax: (35952) 871910
History: Established in 1963.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-January and March-June
Enrollment: 4,500
Faculties:
Computer Science and Automation
Electrical Engineering
Electronics
Machine Technology
Mechanical Engineering
Shipbuilding
Humanities
Ecological and Environmental Studies
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title of *Inzhener* noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

***Vissh Minno-Geolozki Institut* (Higher Institute of Mining and Geology)**
Studentski grad Hristo Botev
Darvenitza
Sofia 1156, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 62581/681069
Fax: (3592) 621042
History: Founded in 1953 after the division of the State Polytechnic Institute.
Academic Year: Two terms: October-January and March-June
Enrollment: 2,552 (1990)
Library: 450,000 volumes
Faculties:
Geology
Mining Technology
Mining Electromechanics
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title of *Inzhener* and specialization noted): 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Fine Arts

***Bulgarski Darzavna Konservatoria* (Bulgarian State Conservatory in Sofia)**
Blvd. Klement Gotvald, 11
Sofia 1505, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 442079
Fax: (3592) 441449
History: Founded in 1921 as an academy and acquired its present status and title in 1954. A college of pop-music was added in 1968.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-December and February-May
Enrollment: Approximately 1,000
Faculties:
Vocal
Instrumental
Musical Theory, Composition, and Conducting
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title and specialization noted): 4 or 5 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 3 years

***Vissh Muzikalno-Pedagogiceski Institut* (Higher Institute of Music Education)**
Ul. Todor Samodumov, 2
Plovdiv 4025, Bulgaria
Tel: (35932) 228311
Fax: (35932) 231668
History: Established in 1964 as a branch of the Bulgarian State Conservatory with a music teaching department, it became an autonomous institution in 1972.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-December and February-May
Enrollment: 650
Library: 760,000
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with teaching or professional title and specialization noted): 4-6 years

***Vissh Institut Za Teatralno Izkustvo 'Kristu Sarafov'* (Krstyo Sarafov Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts)**
Ul. G.S. Rakouski, 108
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
History: Established in 1948 and developed into a higher institute. Named after Krstyo Sarafov, the great Bulgarian actor, in 1954. An academic dramatic theater was set up at the Institute in 1957 and a school puppet theater in 1962.

Academic Year: Two terms: September-January and February-June
Enrollment: 500 (1990)
Library: 56,000 (1990)
Departments: Acting, producing, science of dramatic art, puppetry and staging, cinema and television production, cartoons, and film making.
Credentials Awarded::
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with specialization noted): 4-5 years

***Vissh Institut Za Isobrazitelni Izkustva 'N Pavlovic'* (Nikolai Pavlovic Higher Institute of Fine Arts)**
Ul. Shipka, 1
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 881701
Fax: (3592) 878064
History: Established in 1896. In 1906, it was renamed the State Industrial School. In 1954 it became an academy of fine arts known as the Nikolai Pavlovic Higher Institute of Fine Arts.
Enrollment: 800
Faculties:
Fine Arts
Applied Arts
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with specialization noted): 5-5.5 years

Foreign Students

***Institut Za Cuzdestranni Studenti* (Institute for Foreign Students)**
27 Assen Velchev St.
BG-111 Sofia, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 723481/723848
Fax: (3592) 723877
History: Founded in 1963 to teach the Bulgarian language to foreign citizens studying in Bulgaria. A center for the training of foreign language teachers, which amalgamated all the existing foreign language schools in the country, was established in 1976.
Academic Year: October-June
Enrollment: 1,200
Faculties:
Preparatory for Foreign Students
Foreign Language Teaching (English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Italian, Arabic, Japanese)
Library: 65,000 volumes
Credentials Awarded:
Certificate in Bulgarian language
Diplomas in English, French, Spanish, Portugese, Greek, Italian, Arabic, and Japanese

Medicine

***Vissh Medicinski Institut* (Higher Institute of Medicine in Pleven)**
Ul. Karl Marx, 1
BG 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria
Tel: (35964) 29067/29105
Fax: (35964) 29153
History: Established in 1974 as a faculty, it acquired its present status in 1979, has loose affiliation with Higher Institute of Medicine in Sofia.
Academic Year: Two terms: October-January and March-June
Enrollment: 1,600
Faculty
Medicine
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovani (with the following professional titles noted):
Lekar or *Doktor po Meditsina* (physician): 6 years
Diploma za Spetsialnost: 3-4 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

***Vissh Medicinski Institut* (Higher Institute of Medicine in Sofia, also known as The Medical Academy)**
Blvd. George Sofiiski, 1
Sofia 1431, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 521046
Fax: (3592) 517162
History: Founded in 1918 when a Faculty of Medicine was established at Sofia University. A department for training dentists was added in 1942, and a Department of Pharmacy added to the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics. In 1954, all departments and faculties were combined and the name changed to the Higher Institute of Medicine in Sofia, also known as the Medical Academy.
Academic Year: Two terms: October-January and March-June
Enrollment: 5,200
Faculties:
Medicine
Dentistry
Pharmacy
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with the following professional titles noted):
Stomatolog (Dentist): 5.5 years
Magister-Farmatsevt (Pharmacist): 5 years
Lekar or *Doktor po Meditsina* (Physician): 5 years
Diploma za Spetsialnost (Diploma of Specialization): 3-4 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

***Vissh Medicinski Institut 'I. G. Pavlov'* (I.G.Pavlov Higher Institute of Medicine in Plovdiv)**
Ul. V. Aprilov, 15A
Plovdiv 4000 Bulgaria
Tel: (25932) 44180/443839
Fax: (35932) 442194

History: Established in 1945 as a faculty of medicine within Sofia University, a department of stomatology was added in 1970, which in 1974 became a separate Faculty of Stomatology in Plovdiv. In 1978, a branch was established in Pazardjik for third and fourth year medical students. The Institute acquired its present status and title in 1979.
Academic Year: Two terms: September-January and February-June
Enrollment: 2,900
Faculties:
Dentistry
Medicine
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with the following professional titles noted):
Stomatolog (Dentist): 5.5 years
Lekar or *Doktor po Meditsina* (Physician): 6 years
Diploma za Spetsialnost (Diploma of Specialization): 3-4 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

***Vissh Medicinski Institut* (Higher Institute of Medicine in Stara Zagora)**
Ul. Armeiska, 11
BG-6000 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria
Tel: (35942) 43005/47000

History: Established in 1982 as a branch of the Academy of Medicine in Sofia, it supplies physicians for south and southeast Bulgaria.
Academic Year: Two terms: October-January and March-June
Faculty:
Medicine
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with the following professional titles noted):
Lekar or *Doktor po Meditsina* (Physician): 6 years
Diploma za Spetsialnost (Diploma of Specialization): 3-4 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

***Vissh Medicinski Institut* (Higher Institute of Medicine in Varna)**
Ul. Marin Drinov, 55
Varna 900, Bulgaria
Tel: (35952) 225622
Fax: (35952) 222584

History: Established in 1961 as the Higher Medical Institute. In 1978, it set up a branch in Talbukhim for third and fourth year students.
Academic Year: Two terms: October-January and March-June
Enrollment: 1,620
Faculty:
Medicine
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with the following professional titles noted):
Lekar or *Doktor po Meditsina* (Physician): 6 years
Diploma za Spetsialnost (Diploma of Specialization): 3 years
Doktor na Naukite: a research credential

Sports Training

***Vissh Institut Za Fisiceska Kultura 'Gveorgui Dimitrov'* (National Sports Academy, also known as the Higher Institute of Physical Culture)**
Ul. Tina Kirkova, 1
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
Tel: (3592) 881511
Fax: (3592) 883064

History: Founded in 1942 and reorganized in 1944, it was officially named The Higher Institute of Physical Culture (*Vissh Institut Za Fisceska Kultura 'Gveorgui Dimitrov'*) in 1953. In 1990 the Institute became the National Sports Academy.
Enrollment: 3,000 students
Departments:
Teacher Training
Coaching
Kinesitherapy
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title and specialization noted): 4 years
Kandidat na Naukite: 5 years

Teacher Training

***Vissh Pedagogiceski Institut 'Konstantin Preslavsky* (Higher Pedagogical Institute 'Konstantin Preslavski')**
"Konstantin Preslavski"
Shoumen 9700, Bulgaria
Tel: (35954) 63151/63148
Fax: (35954) 63171

History: Established in 1919 as a teacher training college, in 1964 it became the School of Education, operating as an affiliated branch of Sofia University. In 1971, it was restructured into the Higher Pedagogical Institute.

Academic Year: Two terms: October-January and February-May
Enrollment: 3,800
Library: 120,000 volumes
Faculties:
Extra-Curricular Studies
Biology
Bulgarian Philology
Chemistry
Combined Studies
English and German Philology
Mathematics and Computing
Pedagogy
Physics
Russian Philology
Free Faculty (Elective Courses)
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with professional title *Uchitel* [Teacher] and specialization noted): 5 years

***Vissh Pedagogiceski Institut* (Higher Teacher Training Institute in Blagoevgrad)**
Ul. Alexi Velichkov, 65
P.O. Box 2700
Blagoevgrad 2700, Bulgaria
History: Founded in 1975 as a branch of Sofia University, it became autonomous in 1983.
Enrollment: 7,200
Library: 150,000 volumes
Departments:
Pedagogy
Psychology and Preschool Pedagogics
History
Law
Philology
Economics
Mathematics and Science
Medical Pedagogics
Engineering Pedagogics
Credentials Awarded:
Diploma za Zavarsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie (with the title *Uchitel* [Teacher] noted): 3 years
Diploma za Zavarsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (with the title, *Uchitel* [Teacher] noted): 5 years

Sample Documents

1a. *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie/DZSO*
(Diploma of Completion of Secondary Education)

1b. (Translation)

2a. *Diploma za Sredno Obrazovanie*
(Diploma of Secondary Education from an ESPU)

2b. (Translation)

3a. *Tekhnikum* Diploma
(Diploma and Vocational Qualification for "Electrician")

3b. (Translation)

4a. *Diploma za Poluvisshe Obrazovanie*
(Diploma of Semi-Higher Education) from the Semi-Higher Institute for Tourism, Varna

4b. *Svidetelstvo za Poluvisshe Obrazovanie*
(Certificate of Semi-Higher Education) from the Semi-Higher Institute for Education in Burgas

5a. *Diploma za ZavershenoVisshe Obrazovanie*
(Diploma of Higher Education)

5b. (Translation)

6a. *Diploma za ZavarshenoVisshe Obrazovanie*
(Diploma of Higher Education) issued to foreign students by Bulgarian authorities

6b. (Translation)

7a. *Diploma za Kandidat na Naukite*
(Diploma of Candidate of Science)

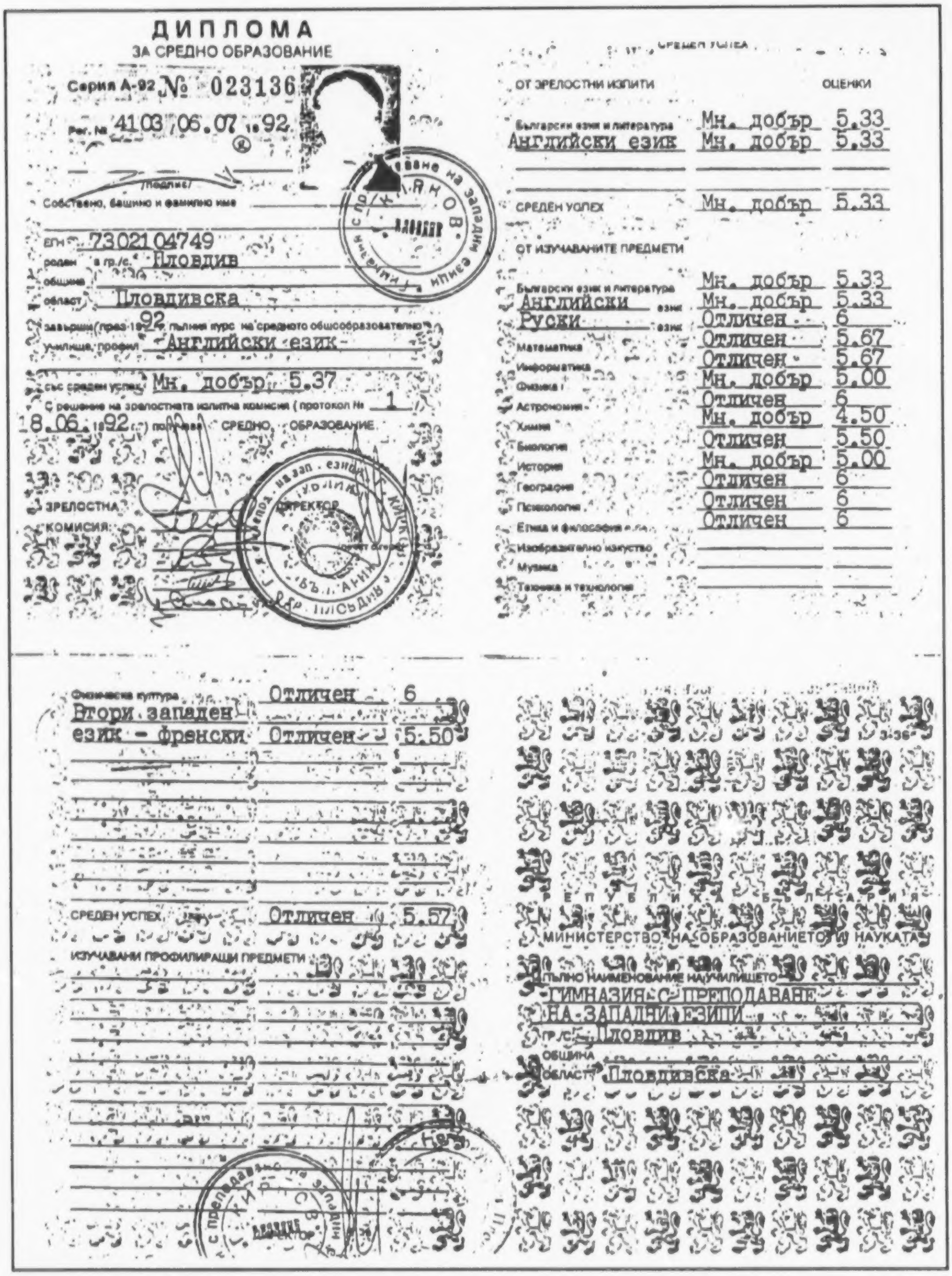
7b. (Translation)

8a. *Svidetelstvo za Spetsializatsia* (Certificate of Specialization [Postgraduate]), from the University of Plovdiv

8b. (Translation)

9a. Diploma of Requalification in Teacher Training of the Ministry of Culture Teacher's Institute, Burgas

9b. (Translation)



ДИПЛОМА
ЗА СРЕДНО ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ

Серия А-92 № 023136
Рег. № 4103/06.07.1992 г.
/подпис/
Собствено, бащино и фамилно име
ЕГН 7302104749
роден в гр./с. Пловдив
община
област Пловдивска
завърши (през 1992 г.) пълния курс на средното общообразователно училище, профил Английски език
със среден успех Мн. добър 5.37
С решение на зрелостната изпитна комисия (протокол № 1 / 18.06.1992 г.) получава СРЕДНО ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ

ЗРЕЛОСТНА КОМИСИЯ:

ДИРЕКТОР

СРЕДЕН УСПЕХ

ОТ ЗРЕЛОСТНИ ИЗПИТИ		ОЦЕНКИ
Български език и литература	Мн. добър	5.33
Английски език	Мн. добър	5.33
СРЕДЕН УСПЕХ	Мн. добър	5.33

ОТ ИЗУЧАВАНИТЕ ПРЕДМЕТИ

Български език и литература	Мн. добър	5.33
Английски език	Мн. добър	5.33
Руски език	Отличен	6
Математика	Отличен	5.67
Информатика	Отличен	5.67
Физика	Мн. добър	5.00
Астрономия	Отличен	6
Химия	Мн. добър	4.50
Биология	Отличен	5.50
История	Мн. добър	5.00
География	Отличен	6
Психология	Отличен	6
Етика и философия	Отличен	6
Изобразително изкуство		
Музика		
Техника и технологии		
Физическа култура	Отличен	6
Втори западен език - френски	Отличен	5.50
СРЕДЕН УСПЕХ	Отличен	5.57

ИЗУЧАВАНИ ПРОФИЛИРАЩИ ПРЕДМЕТИ

ДИРЕКТОР

Р Е П У Б Л И К А Б Ъ Л Г А Р И Я
МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО И НАУКАТА

ПЪЛНО НАИМЕНОВАНИЕ НА УЧИЛИЩЕТО ГИМНАЗИЯ С ПРЕПОДАВАНЕ НА ЗАПАДНИ ЕЗИЦИ
гр./с. Пловдив
ОБЩИНА
ОБЛАСТ Пловдивска

Document 1a. *Diploma za [Zavarsheno] Sredno Obrazovanie/DZSO* (Diploma of [Completed] Secondary Education)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & SCIENCE
PLOVDIV FOREGN LANGUAGE SCHOOL, PLOVDIV, SAME MUNICIPALITY

DIPLOMA
of completed secondary education
Series A-92 No.023136
Reg. No.4103/06.07.1992

Names: Identity No.

born in the town of Plovdiv, same province, completed in 1992 the full course of studies of the secondary school of general edication, department: ENGLISH LANGUAGE, with grade point average VERY GOOD 5,37.

By a decision of the School-leaving board of examiners (Protocol No.1/18.06.1992) he received his secondary school training.

School-leaving Board of Examiners: sgns.ill.

SUPPLEMENT TO DIPLOMA Series A-92 No.023136

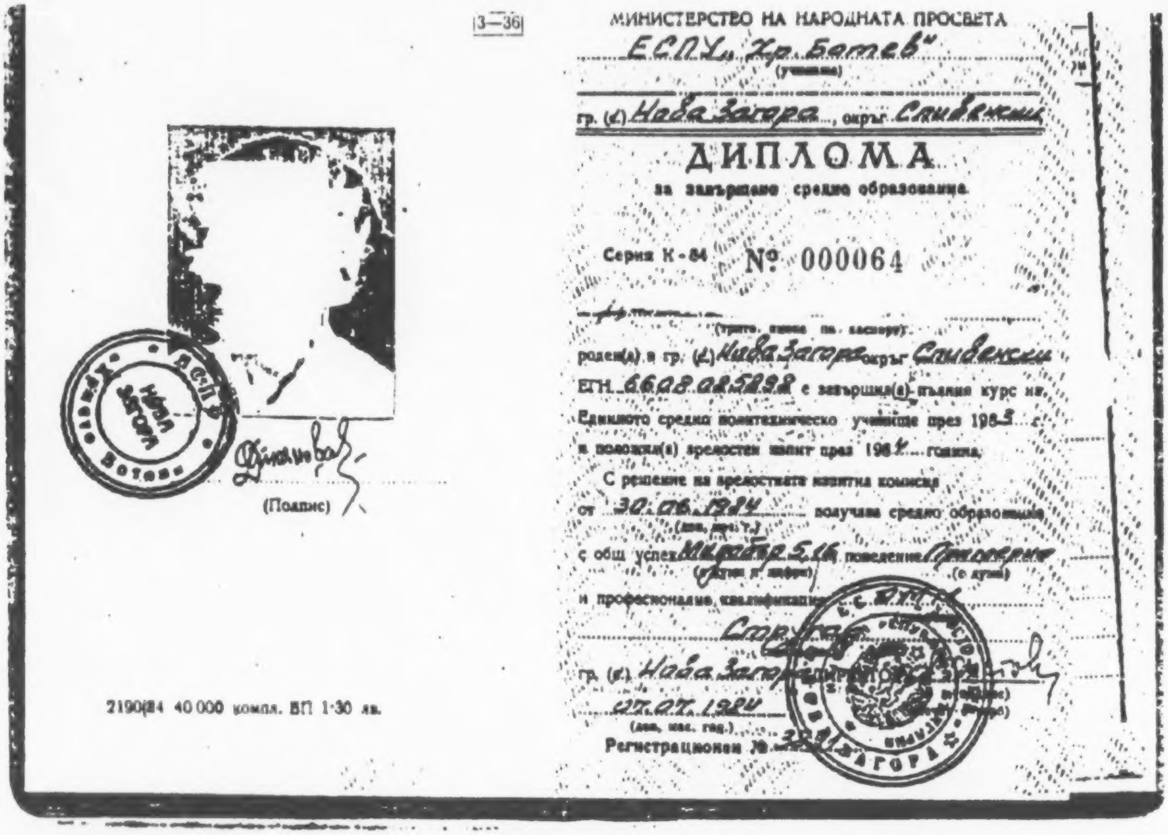
GRADE POINT AVERAGE

SCHOOL-LEAVING EXAMINATIONS:	GRADES
BULGARIAN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	VERY GOOD 5.33
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	VERY GOOD 5.33
GRADE POINT AVERAGE:	VERY GOOD 5.33
SUBJECTS STUDIED:	
BULGARIAN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	VERY GOOD 5.33
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	VERY GOOD 5.33
RUSSIAN LANGUAGE	EXCELLENT 6
MATHEMATICS	EXCELLENT 5.67
INFORMATICS	EXCELLENT 5.67
PHYSICS	VERY GOOD 5.00
ASTRONOMY	EXCELLENT 6
CHEMISTRY	VERY GOOD 4.50
BIOLOGY	EXCELLENT 5.50
HISTORY	VERY GOOD 5.00
GEOGRAPHY	EXCELLENT 6
PSYCHOLOGY	EXCELLENT 6
ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY	EXCELLENT 6
PHYSICAL TRINING	EXCELLENT 6
SECOND FOREIGN LANGUAGE - FRENCH	EXCELLENT 5.50
GRADE POINT AVERAGE:	EXCELLENT 5.57

MANAGER: sgn.ill. SEAL

Document 1b. (Translation of Document 1a.)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



3—36

(Подпис)

2190|84 40 000 компл. БП 1·30 лв.

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА НАРОДНАТА ПРОСВЕТА

ЕСПУ „Хр. Ботев"
(училище)

гр. (с.) Нова Загора, окръг Сливенски

ДИПЛОМА

за завършено средно образование

Серия К-84 № 000064

[redacted]
(трите имена по паспорт)

роден(а) в гр. (с.) Нова Загора окръг Сливенски

ЕГН 6608025298 с завършил(а) пълния курс на Единното средно политехническо училище през 198[illegible] г.

и положил(а) зрелостен изпит през 1984 година.

С решение на зрелостната изпитна комисия от 30.06.1984 получава средно образование
(ден, месец, г.)

с общ успех [illegible] 5.16 поведение Примерно
(с думи и цифри) (с думи)

и професионална квалификация Стругар

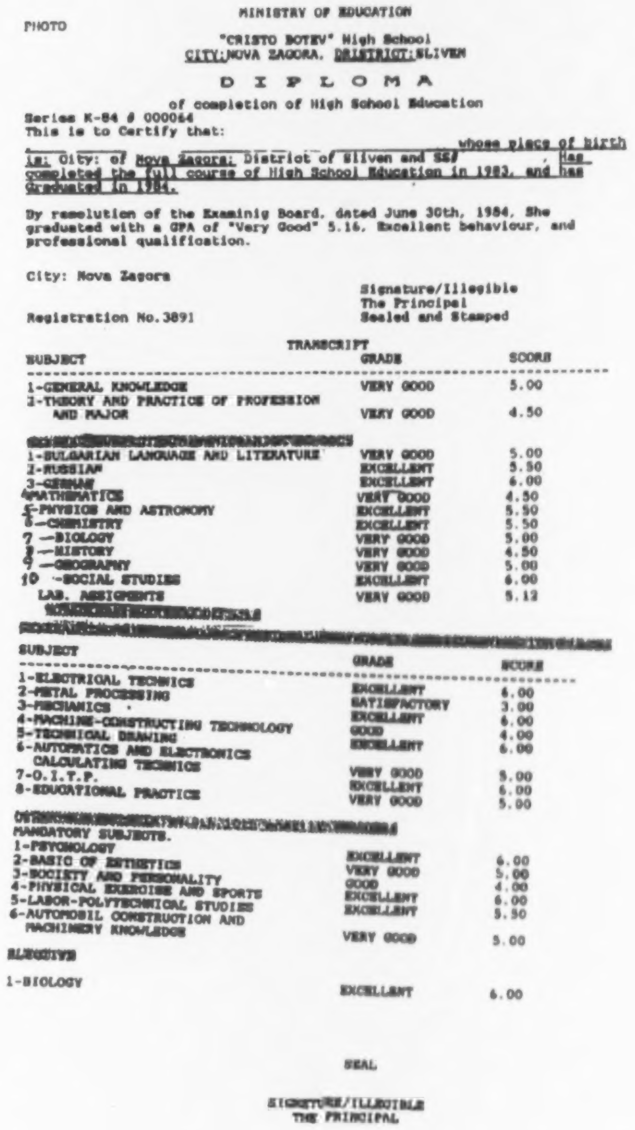
гр. (с.) Нова Загора

07.07.1984
(ден, мес. год.)

Регистрационен № 32[illegible]

Document 2a. *Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Completion of Secondary Education from an ESPU)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



PHOTO

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

"CRISTO BOTEV" High School
CITY:NOVA ZAGORA, DRISTRICT:SLIVEN

DIPLOMA

of completion of High School Education

Series K-84 # 000064
This is to Certify that:

_____ whose place of birth is: City: of Nova Zagora; District of Sliven and SS# _____, Has completed the full course of High School Education in 1983, and has Graduated in 1984.

By resolution of the Examinig Board, dated June 30th, 1984, She graduated with a GPA of "Very Good" 5.16, Excellent behaviour, and professional qualification.

City: Nova Zagora

Signature/Illegible
The Principal
Registration No.3891
Sealed and Stamped

TRANSCRIPT

SUBJECT	GRADE	SCORE
1-GENERAL KNOWLEDGE	VERY GOOD	5.00
2-THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PROFESSION AND MAJOR	VERY GOOD	4.50

[redacted]

1-BULGARIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE	VERY GOOD	5.00
2-RUSSIAN	EXCELLENT	5.50
3-GERMAN	EXCELLENT	6.00
4-MATHEMATICS	VERY GOOD	4.50
5-PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY	EXCELLENT	5.50
6-CHEMISTRY	EXCELLENT	5.50
7 -BIOLOGY	VERY GOOD	5.00
8 -HISTORY	VERY GOOD	4.50
9 -GEOGRAPHY	VERY GOOD	5.00
10 -SOCIAL STUDIES	EXCELLENT	6.00
LAB. ASSIGMENTS	VERY GOOD	5.12

[redacted]

SUBJECT	GRADE	SCORE
1-ELECTRICAL TECHNICS	EXCELLENT	6.00
2-METAL PROCESSING	SATISFACTORY	3.00
3-MECHANICS	EXCELLENT	6.00
4-MACHINE-CONSTRUCTING TECHNOLOGY	GOOD	4.00
5-TECHNICAL DRAWING	EXCELLENT	6.00
6-AUTOMATICS AND ELECTRONICS CALCULATING TECHNICS	VERY GOOD	5.00
7-O.I.T.P.	EXCELLENT	6.00
8-EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE	VERY GOOD	5.00

[redacted]

MANDATORY SUBJECTS.

1-PSYCHOLOGY	EXCELLENT	6.00
2-BASIC OF ESTHETICS	VERY GOOD	5.00
3-SOCIETY AND PERSONALITY	GOOD	4.00
4-PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND SPORTS	EXCELLENT	6.00
5-LABOR-POLYTECHNICAL STUDIES	EXCELLENT	5.50
6-AUTOMOBIL CONSTRUCTION AND MACHINERY KNOWLEDGE	VERY GOOD	5.00

ELECTIVE

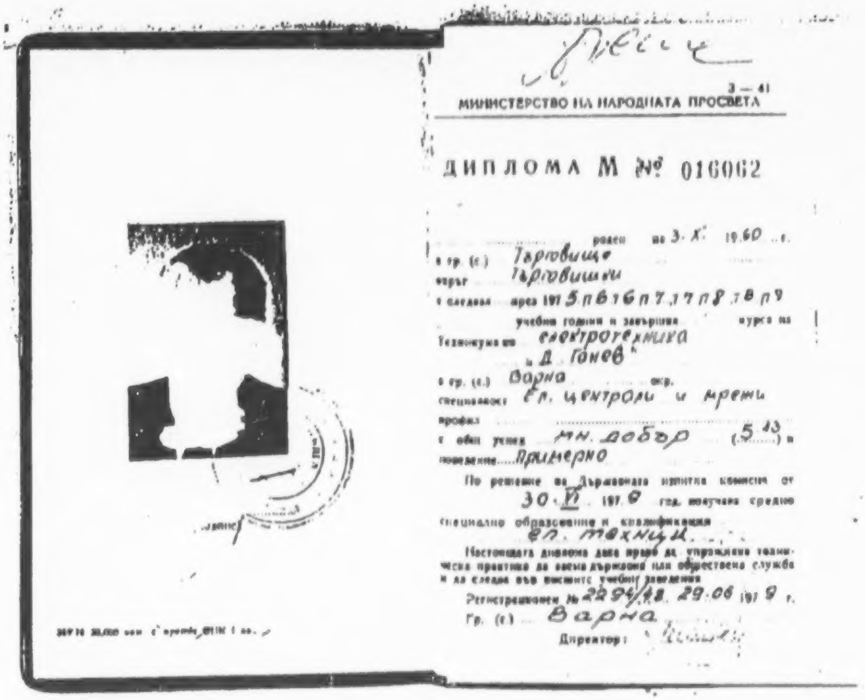
1-BIOLOGY	EXCELLANT	6.00

SEAL

SIGNATURE/ILLEGIBLE
THE PRINCIPAL

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Document 2b. (Translation of Document 2a.)



3 — 41
МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА НАРОДНАТА ПРОСВЕТА

ДИПЛОМА М № 016062

роден на 3. X. 1960 г.
в гр. (с.) Търговище
окръг Търговишки
е следвал през 1975/76, 76/77, 77/78, 78/79
учебни години и завършил курса на
Техникума по електротехника
„Д. Гонев"
в гр. (с.) Варна окр.
специалност Ел. централи и мрежи
профил
с общ успех мн. добър (5.13) и
поведение Примерно

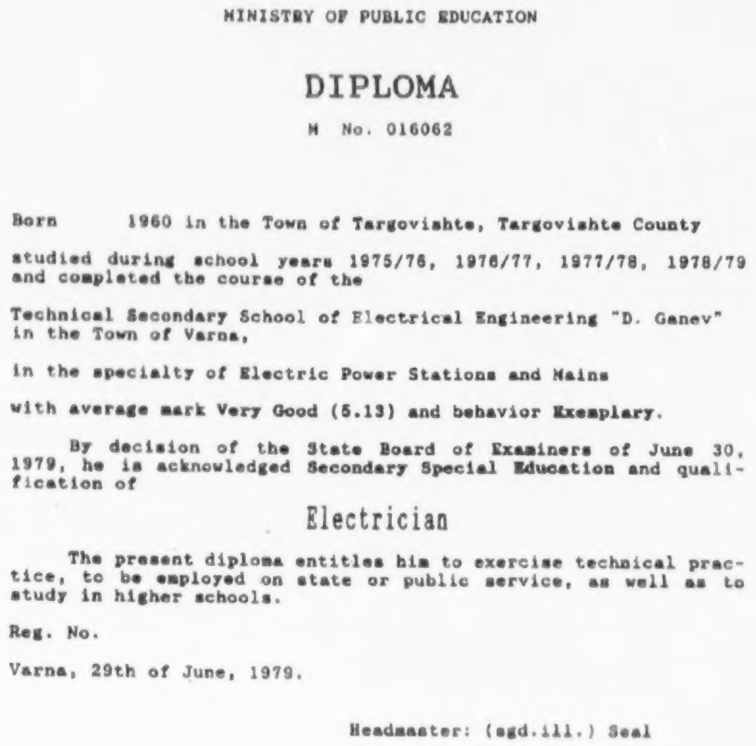
По решение на Държавната изпитна комисия от 30.VI. 1979 год. получава средно специално образование и квалификация
ел. техник.

Настоящата диплома дава право да упражнява техническа практика да заема държавна или обществена служба и да следва във висшите учебни заведения

Регистрационен № 2294/48. 29.06 1979 г.
Гр. (с.) Варна
Директор:

Document 3a. *Tekhnikum Diploma* (Diploma and Vocational Qualification for "Electrician"

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

DIPLOMA

H No. 016062

Born 1960 in the Town of Targovishte, Targovishte County

studied during school years 1975/76, 1976/77, 1977/78, 1978/79 and completed the course of the

Technical Secondary School of Electrical Engineering "D. Ganev" in the Town of Varna,

in the specialty of Electric Power Stations and Mains

with average mark Very Good (5.13) and behavior Exemplary.

By decision of the State Board of Examiners of June 30, 1979, he is acknowledged Secondary Special Education and qualification of

Electrician

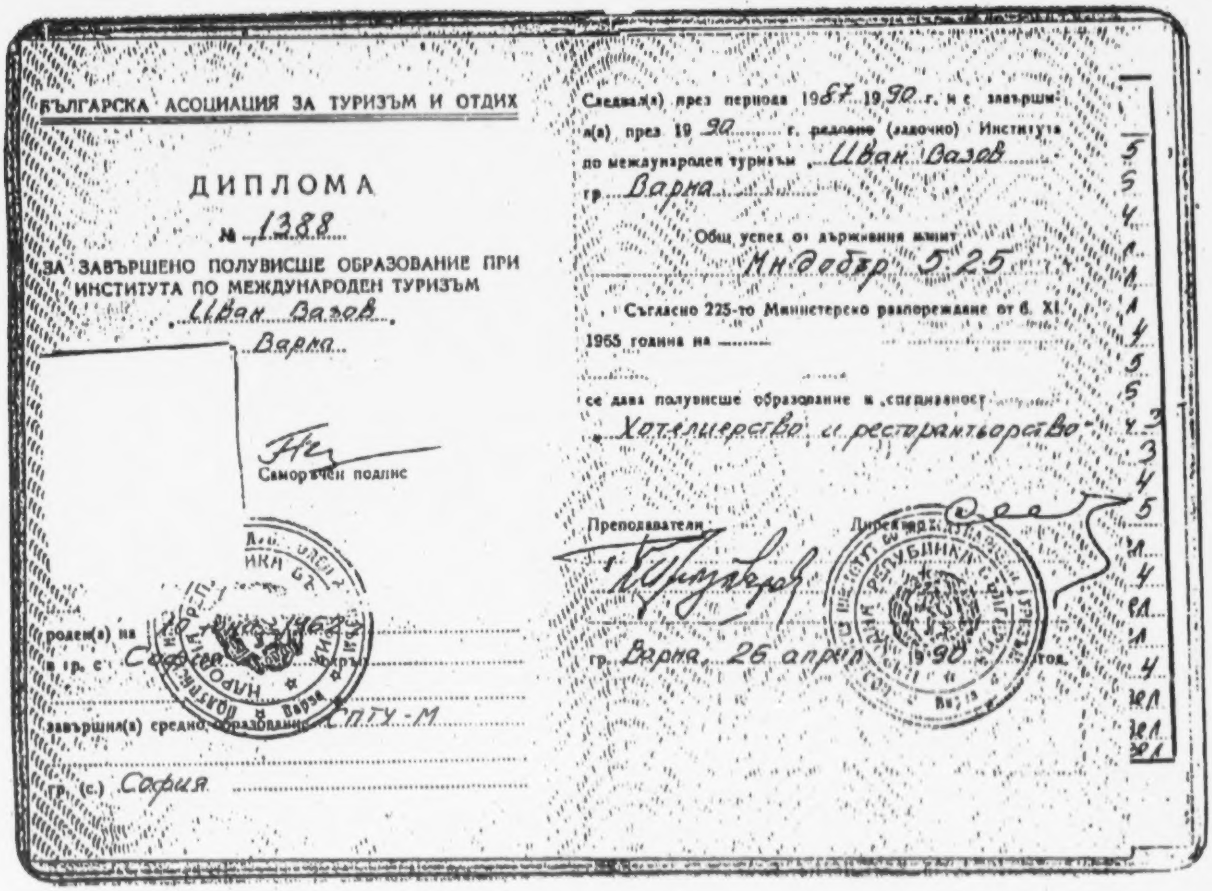
The present diploma entitles him to exercise technical practice, to be employed on state or public service, as well as to study in higher schools.

Reg. No.

Varna, 29th of June, 1979.

Headmaster: (sgd.ill.) Seal

Document 3b. (Translation of Document 3a.)



БЪЛГАРСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ ЗА ТУРИЗЪМ И ОТДИХ

ДИПЛОМА

№ 1388

ЗА ЗАВЪРШЕНО ПОЛУВИСШЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ ПРИ ИНСТИТУТА ПО МЕЖДУНАРОДЕН ТУРИЗЪМ

Иван Вазов

Варна

Саморъчен подпис

роден(а) на 10 [illegible] 1962

в гр. с. София

завършил(а) средно образование СПТУ-М

гр. (с.) София

Следвал(а) през периода 1987 1990 г. и е завършил(а) през 19 90 г. редовно (задочно) Института по международен туризъм „Иван Вазов" гр. Варна

Общ успех от държавния изпит

Мн. добър 5.25

Съгласно 225-то Министерско разпореждане от 6. XI. 1965 година на ……

се дава полувисше образование и специалност

„Хотелиерство и ресторантьорство"

Преподаватели:

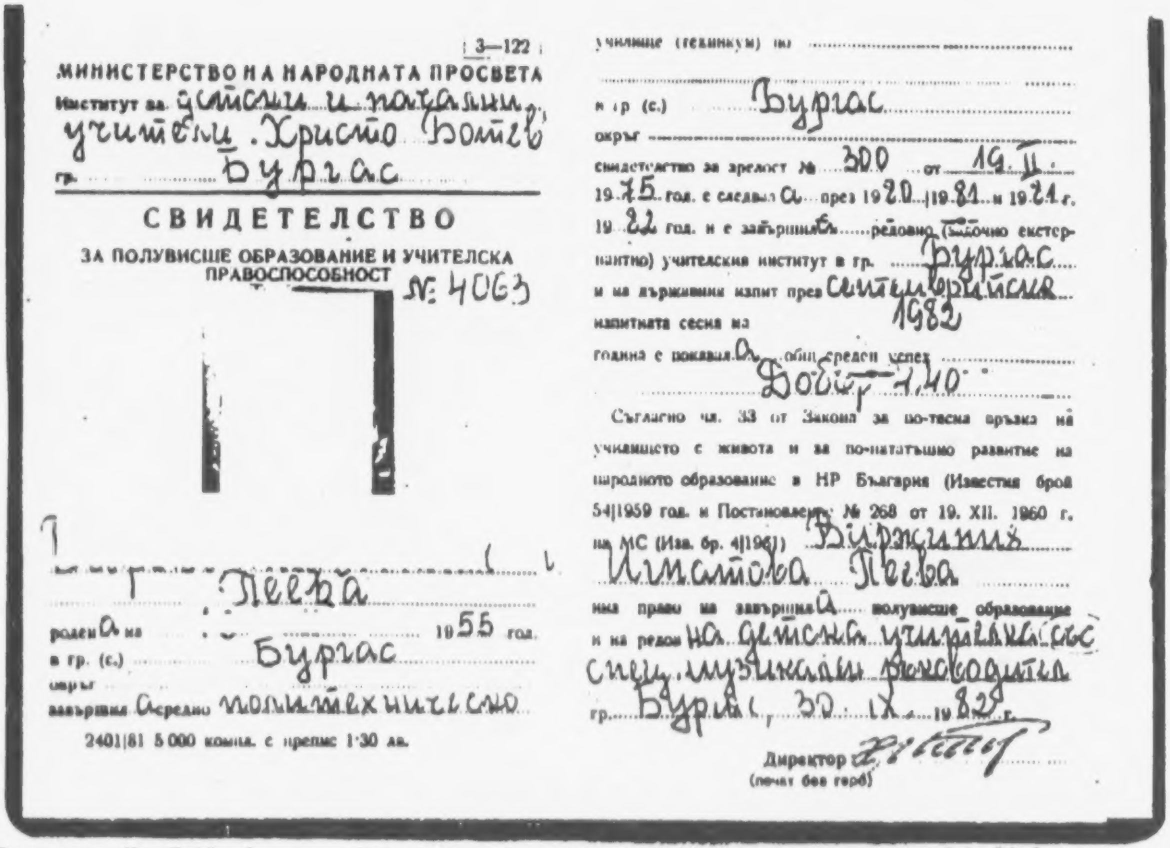
Директор:

гр. Варна, 26 април 1990 година

НР БЪЛГАРИЯ
10 ст
ДЪРЖАВНА ТАКСОВА МАРКА
НР БЪЛГАРИЯ
2 ЛЕВА
ДЪРЖАВНА ГЕРБОВА МАРКА
НР БЪЛГАРИЯ
10 ст
ДЪРЖАВНА ТАКСОВА МАРКА
НР БЪЛГАРИЯ
10 ст
ДЪРЖАВНА ТАКСОВА МАРКА

Document 4a. *Diploma za Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* **(Diploma of Semi-Higher Education) from the Semi-Higher Institute for Tourism, Varna. The area of specialization is Hotel and Restaurant Management.**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



3—122

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА НАРОДНАТА ПРОСВЕТА

Институт за детски и начални учители „Христо Ботев"

гр. Бургас

СВИДЕТЕЛСТВО

ЗА ПОЛУВИСШЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ И УЧИТЕЛСКА ПРАВОСПОСОБНОСТ № 4063

Г. Пеева

роден а на ... 1955 год.

в гр. (с.) Бургас

окръг

завършил а средно политехническо

2401/81 5 000 компл. с препис 1·30 лв.

училище (техникум) на

в гр. (с.) Бургас

окръг

свидетелство за зрелост № 300 от 19. II. 1975 год. е следвал а през 1980/1981 и 1981 г. 1982 год. и е завършил а редовно (задочно екстернатно) учителския институт в гр. Бургас

и на държавния изпит през септемврийска изпитната сесия на 1982 година е показал а общ среден успех Добър 4,40

Съгласно чл. 33 от Закона за по-тясна връзка на училището с живота и за по-нататъшно развитие на народното образование в НР България (Известия брой 54/1959 год. и Постановление № 268 от 19. XII. 1960 г. на МС (Изв. бр. 4/1961) Вирджиния Игнатова Пеева

има право на завършила полувисше образование и на редом на детска учителка със спец. музикален ръководител

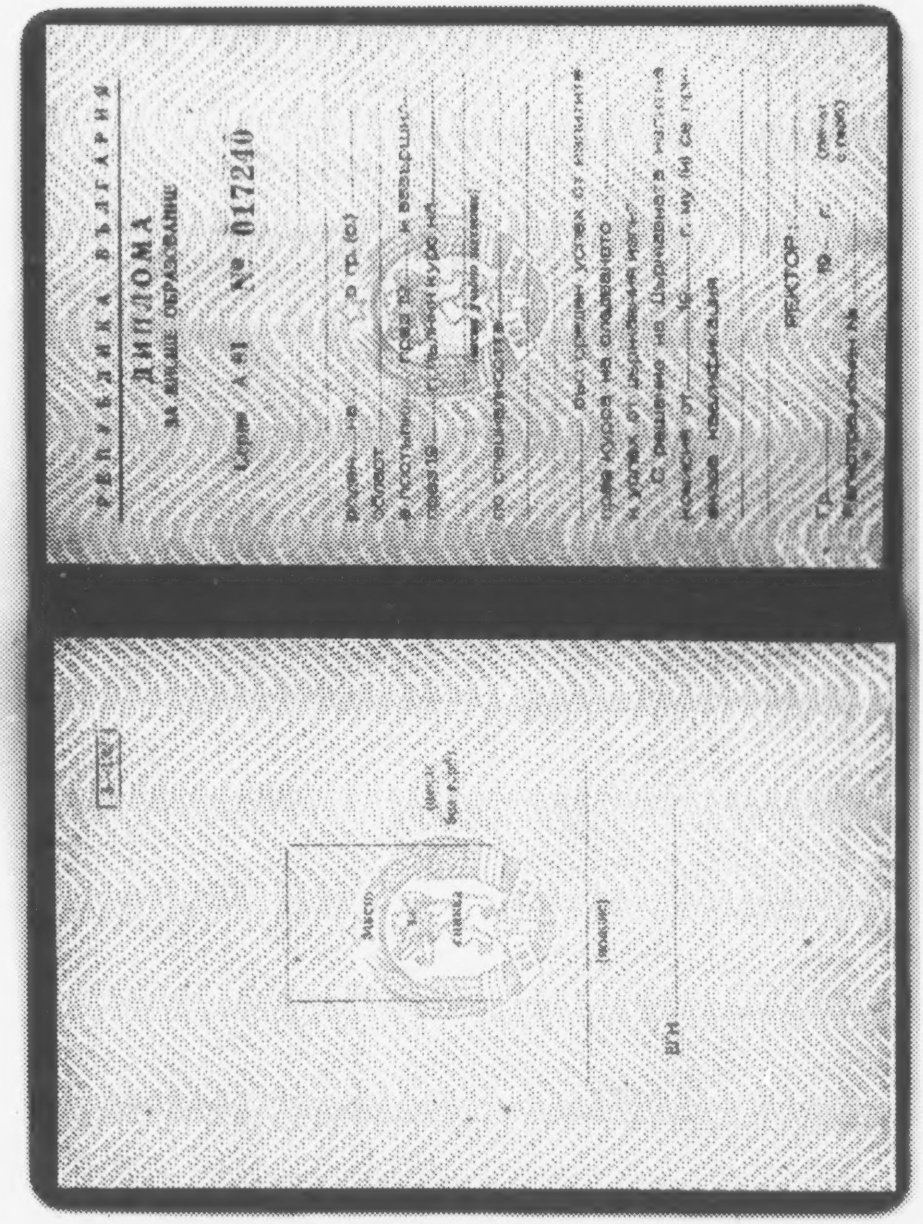
гр. Бургас, 30. IX. 1982 г.

Директор

(печат без герб)

Document 4b. *Svidetelstvo za Poluvisshe Obrazovanie* (Certificate of Semi-Higher Education) from the Semi-Higher Institute for Education in Burgas. The area of specialization is Elementary Education.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ

ДИПЛОМА

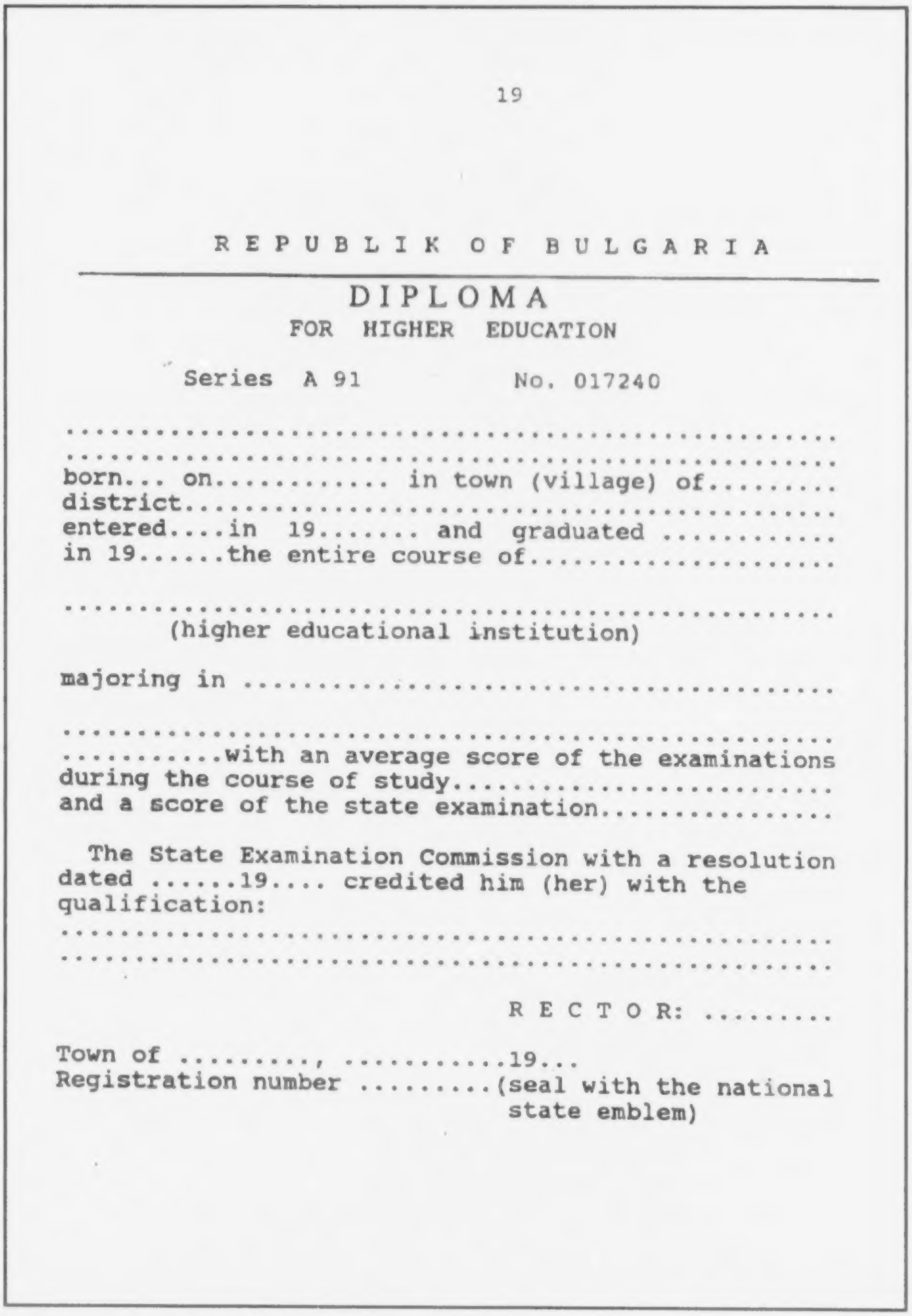
ЗА ВИСШЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ

Серия А 91 № 017240

РЕКТОР

Document 5a. *Diploma za ZavarshenoVisshe Obrazovanie* (Diploma of Higher Education)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



19

REPUBLIK OF BULGARIA

DIPLOMA
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Series A 91 No. 017240

....
....
born... on........... in town (village) of.........
district...
entered....in 19....... and graduated ....
in 19......the entire course of....................

....
(higher educational institution)

majoring in ....

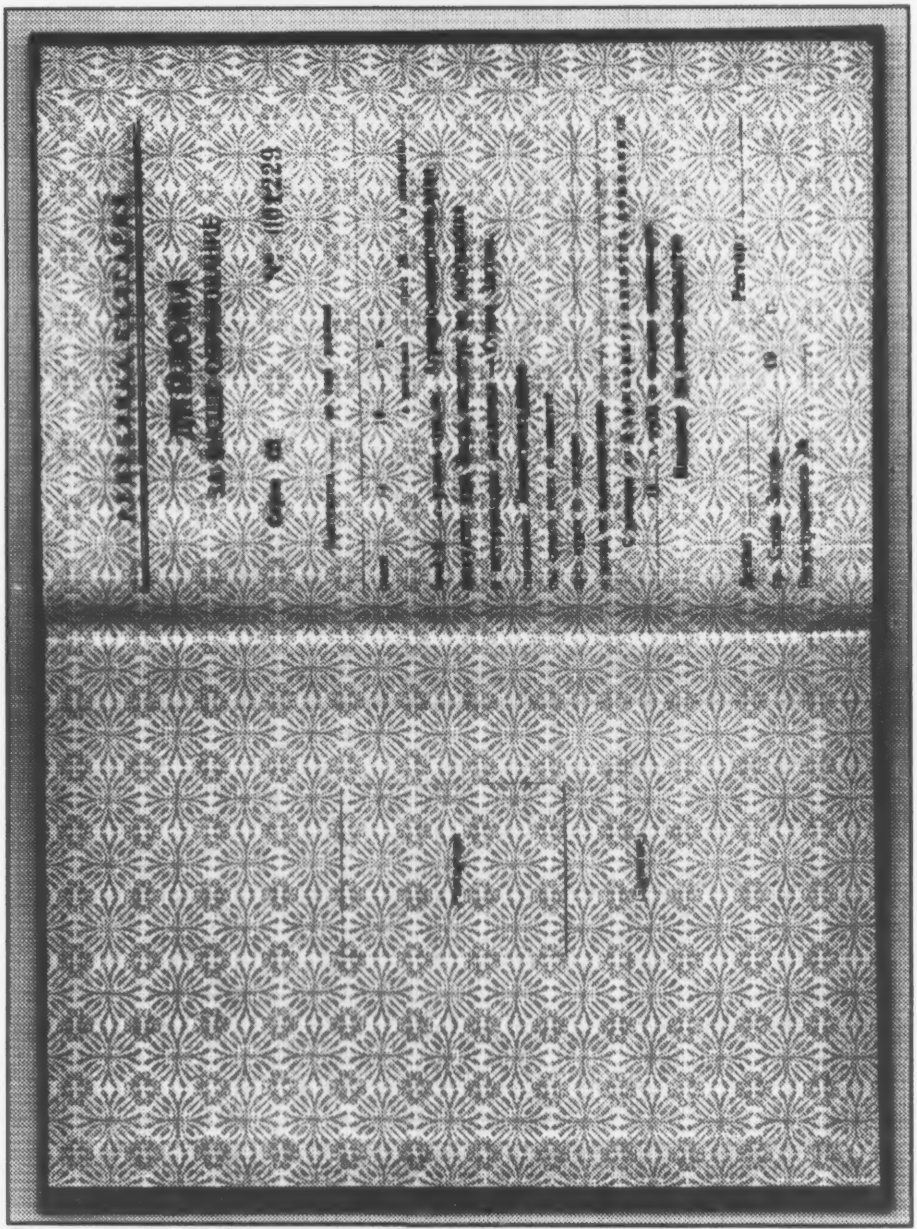
....
...........with an average score of the examinations
during the course of study........................
and a score of the state examination...............

The State Examination Commission with a resolution
dated ......19.... credited him (her) with the
qualification:
....
....

R E C T O R: ....

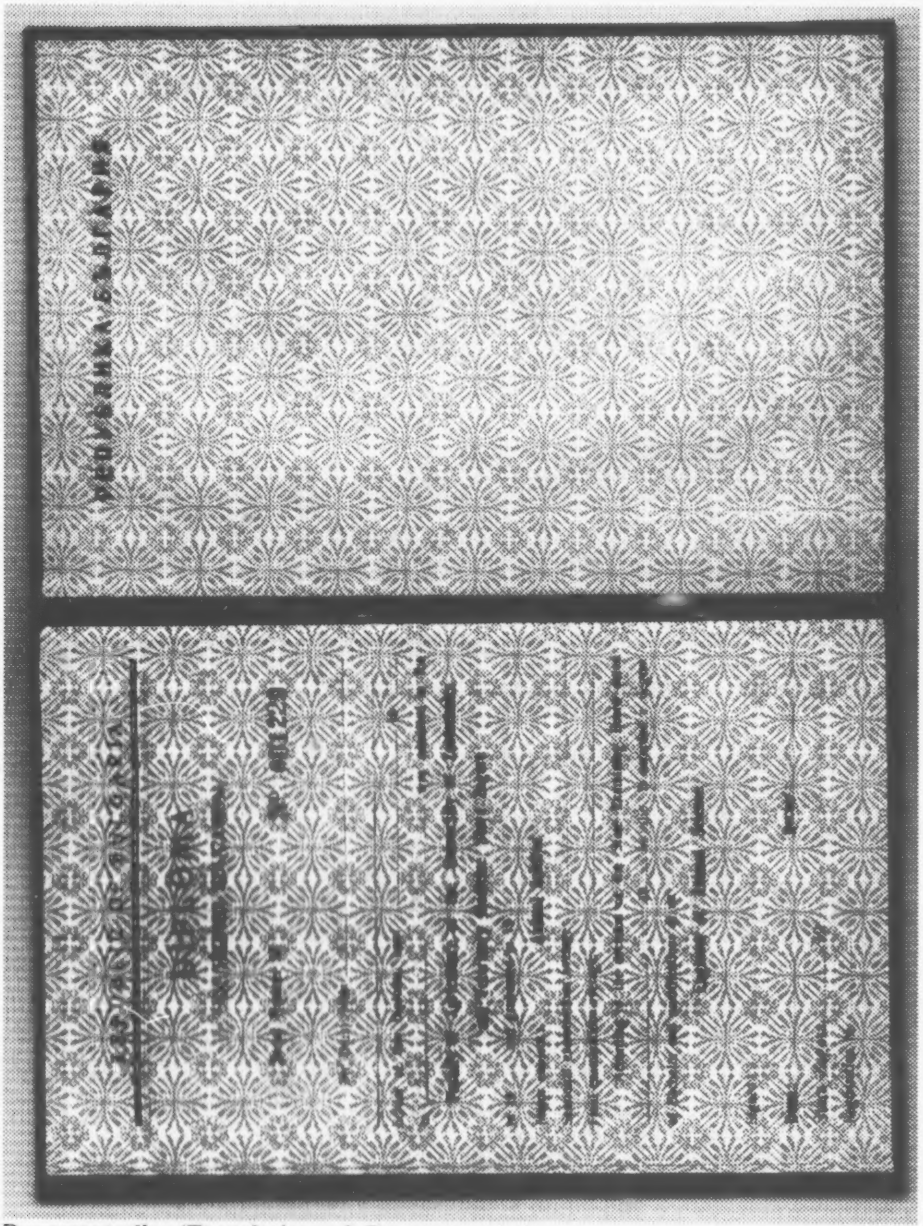
Town of ...., ...19...
Registration number ....(seal with the national
state emblem)

Document 5b. (Translation of Document 5a.)



Document 6a. ***Diploma za ZavarshenoVisshe Obrazovanie*** **(Diploma of Higher Education) issued to foreign students by Bulgarian authorities**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ

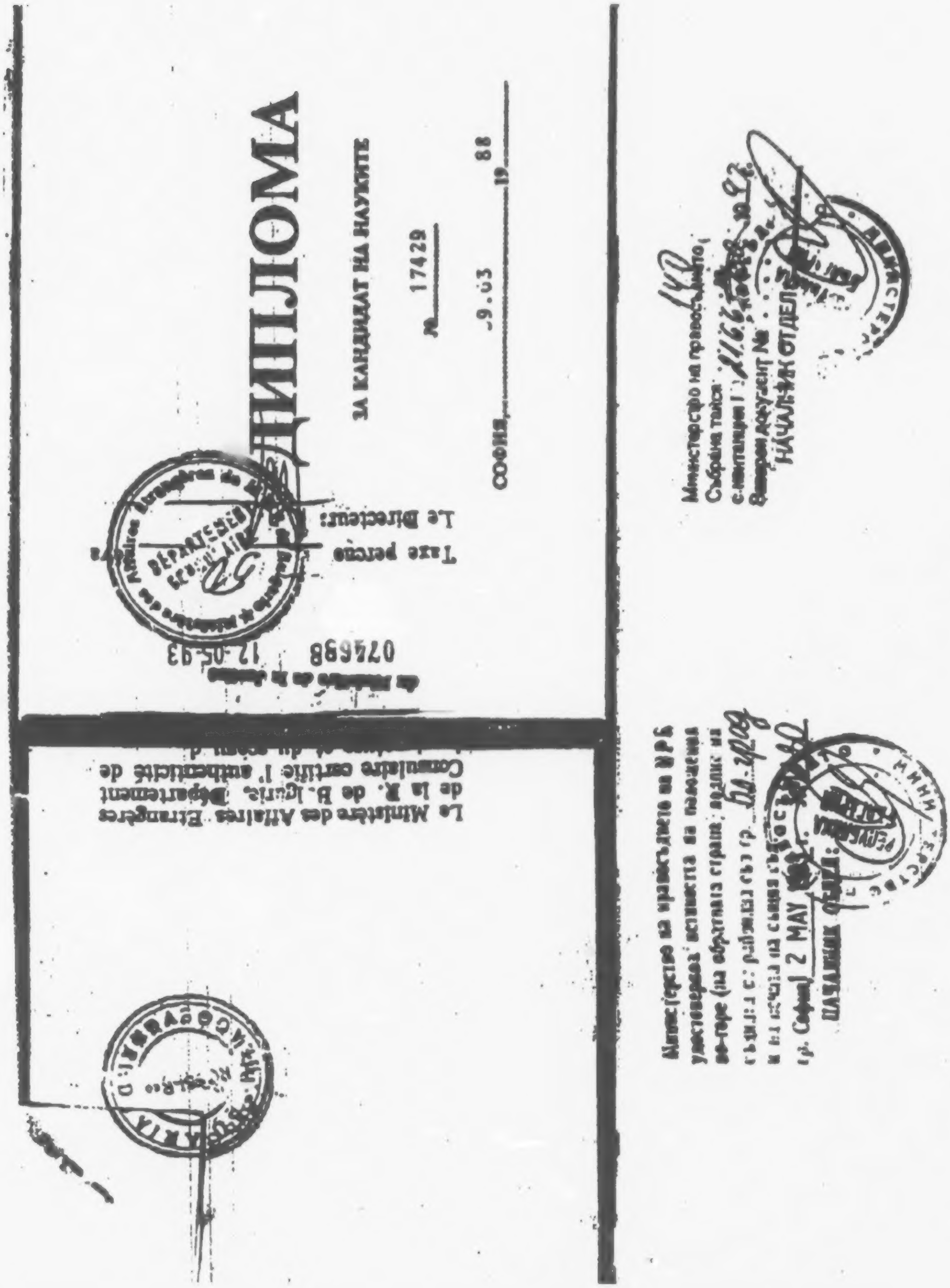
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

DIPLOMA

№ 001229

Document 6b. (Translation of Document 6a.)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



ДИПЛОМА

ЗА КАНДИДАТ НА НАУКИТЕ

№ 17429

СОФИЯ, 9.03 1988

Taxe perçue

Le Directeur:

074698 12.05.93

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la R. de Bulgarie, Département Consulaire certifie l'authenticité de

Министерство на правосъдието

Събрана такса

с квитанция № 11766

Входящ документ №

НАЧАЛНИК ОТДЕЛ

Министерство на правосъдието на НРБ удостоверява истинността на положения по-горе (на обратната страна) подпис на

гр. София 2 MAY

НАЧАЛНИК ОТДЕЛ

Document 7a. *Diploma za Kandidat na Naukite* (Diploma of Candidate of Science)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Document 7b. (Translation of Document 7a.)

DIPLOMA

No............

Sofia-------------------------

____

The High Attestation Commission

Acknowledged________________________________

(name)

Born_____________ in __________________

(date) (town)

The Scientific Degree

____ Sciences

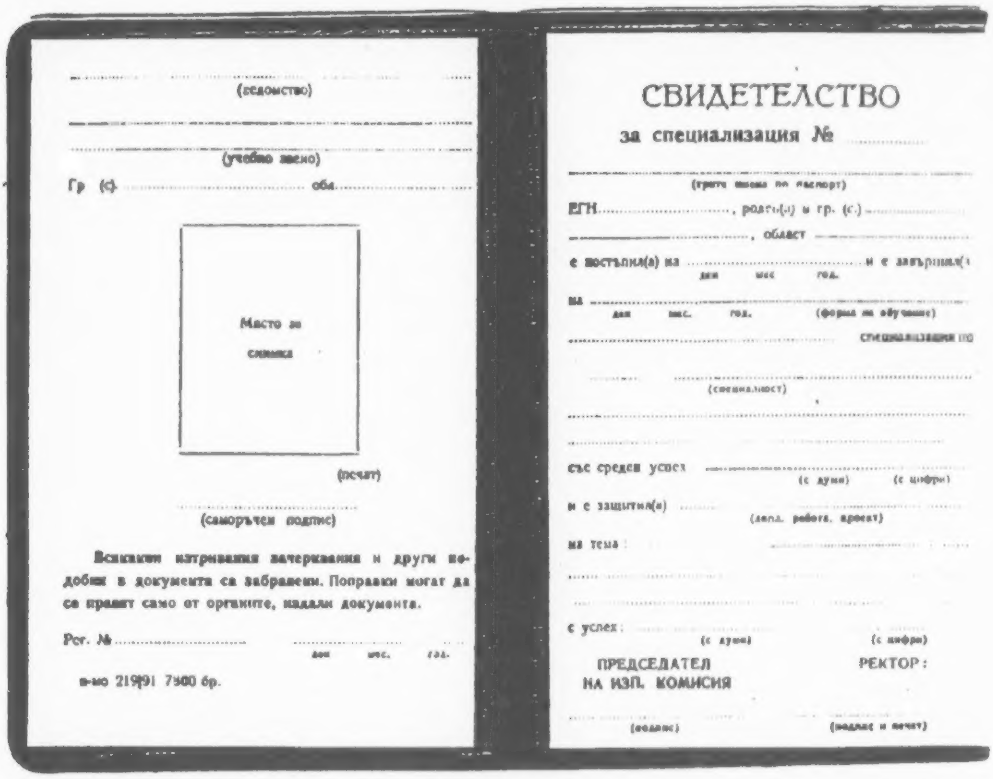
(specify the science)

Protocol______ No______________ of ____________________

(date)

Science Secretary General: Chair:

Sample Documents



(ведомство)

(учебно звено)

Гр (с) .... обл. ....

Място за снимка

(печат)

(саморъчен подпис)

Всякакви изтривания зачерквания и други подобни в документа са забранени. Поправки могат да се правят само от органите, издали документа.

Рег. № .... ден мес. год.

з-мо 219/91 7500 бр.

СВИДЕТЕЛСТВО

за специализация № ....

(трите имена по паспорт)

ЕГН ...., роден(а) в гр. (с.) ....

.............................., област ....

е постъпил(а) на .... ден мес. год. и е завършил(а)

на .... ден мес. год. (форма на обучение)

.... специализация по

.... (специалност)

със среден успех .... (с думи) (с цифри)

и е защитил(а) .... (дипл. работа, проект)

на тема: ....

с успех: .... (с думи) (с цифри)

ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛ
НА ИЗП. КОМИСИЯ

РЕКТОР:

(подпис)

(подпис и печат)

Document 8a. *Svidetelstvo za Spetsializatsia* (Certificate of Specialization [Postgraduate], University of Plovdiv)

Certificate

of

Specialization

No.............

Name ________________________

Social Security Number: __________________ Born _________ In ________________________
(town)

County: _____________________________

Has been admitted (date) __________________ and graduated

____________________ as ____
(dates) (form of education- regular/correspondence

____
(qualification)

____

With an average grade of __________________

and has defended _________________________________
(thesis, project)

____
(full name of the thesis/project)

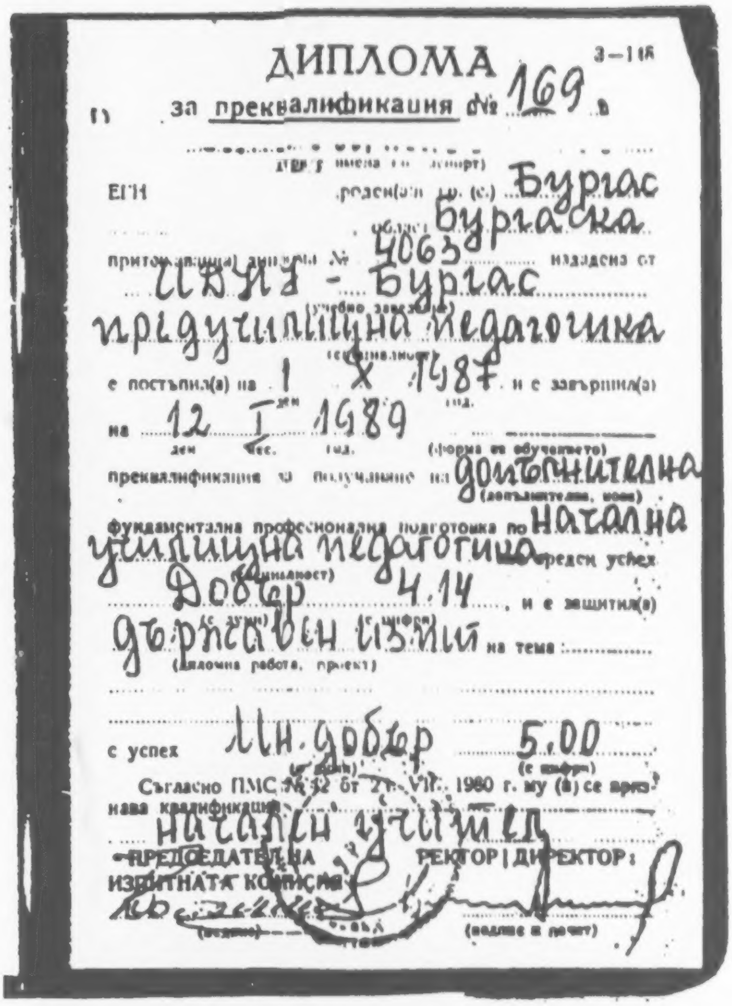
____

With a grade ____________________

Chair of the
Examination Committee

Rector

Document 8b. (Translation of Document 8a.)



3–118

ДИПЛОМА

за преквалификация № 169

(трите имена по паспорт)

ЕГН роден(а) в гр. (с.) Бургас

област Бургаска

притежаващ(а) диплома № 4063 издадена от

ИДУИ - Бургас

(учебно заведение)

предучилищна педагогика

(специалност)

е постъпил(а) на 1 X 1987 и е завършил(а)

на 12 I 1989

ден мес. год. (форма на обучението)

преквалификация за получаване на допълнителна

(допълнителна, нова)

фундаментална професионална подготовка по начална училищна педагогика

(специалност)

със среден успех Добър 4.14, и е защитил(а)

(с думи) (с цифри)

държавен изпит на тема

(дипломна работа, проект)

с успех Мн. добър 5.00

(с думи) (с цифри)

Съгласно ПМС № 12 от 21. VII. 1980 г. му (ѝ) се признава квалификация

начален учител

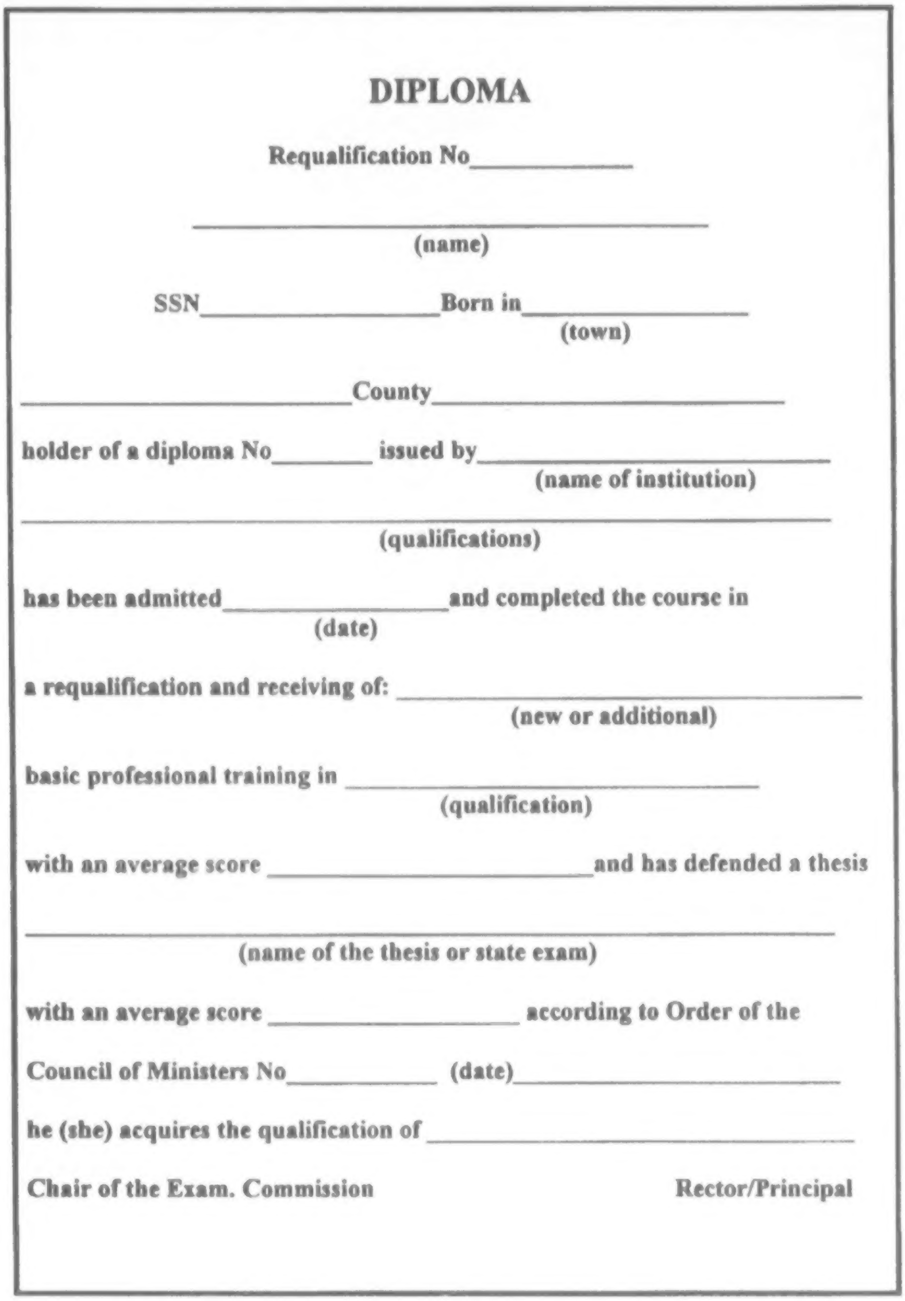
ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛ НА ИЗПИТНАТА КОМИСИЯ:

(подпис)

РЕКТОР | ДИРЕКТОР:

(подпис и печат)

Document 9a. Diploma of Requalification in Teacher Training (Ministry of Culture Teacher's Institute, Burgas)



DIPLOMA

Requalification No____________

____
(name)

SSN__________________Born in_________________
(town)

_________________________County___________________________

holder of a diploma No________ issued by___________________________
(name of institution)

____
(qualifications)

has been admitted_________________and completed the course in
(date)

a requalification and receiving of: ___________________________________
(new or additional)

basic professional training in _______________________________
(qualification)

with an average score ________________________and has defended a thesis

____
(name of the thesis or state exam)

with an average score ___________________ according to Order of the

Council of Ministers No___________ (date)_________________________

he (she) acquires the qualification of ________________________________

Chair of the Exam. Commission Rector/Principal

Document 9b. (Translation of Document 9a.)

Appendix C

National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials and the Placement Recommendations in this Workshop Report

The placement recommendations published in this PIER workshop report have been approved by the National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials (the Council) in consultation with the authors. The Council was established to provide guidance concerning foreign educational credentials to U.S. institutions of higher education. It is the only inter-associational body in the United States specifically organized to perform this role.

The membership of the Council reflects the diversity of U.S. educational institutions for which placement recommendations are made. The member organizations are the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), the American Council on Education (ACE), The College Board, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), the Institute of International Education (IIE), and NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Observers from U.S. organizations interested in international education include the United States Information Agency (USIA), the Agency for International Development (AACRAO-AID), and the New York State Education Department.

Their representatives for 1993-1995 are listed below. See page 38 for a description of the Council's role, and a guide to the understanding of its placement recommendations for this volume.

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Representatives from Observer Organizations:

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NY State Education Department-Susan Fuller, Credentials Assessment, State Education Department, Albany, NY

Glossary

A

Akademiya. Academy
Akademicheski svet. Academic Council
Arkhitekt. Architect
Aspirant (masc), Aspirantk (fem.). Graduate student
Aspirantura. Graduate studies
Atestat. Certificate

B

Balgarska. Bulgarian
Biologiya. Biology

C

Chimiya. Chemistry

D

Darzaven ispit. Final State examination at end of first stage of higher education
Detska gradina. Kindergarten
Doktor na Naukite. Doctor of Science
Dotsent. Lecturer

E

Ezik. Language, grammar

F

Fakultet. Faculty or school
Farmatsevt. Pharmacist
Fizika. Physics

G

Geografiya. Geography
Goren kurs. Upper level of the general polytechnical school

I

Informatika. Informatics-computer science
Inzhener. Engineer
Inzhenerstvo. Engineering
Istoriya. History

J

Yasli. Nursery school

K

Kandidat na Naukite. Candidate of Science (literal translation), a postgraduate qualification, awarded after 3 years of full time study and research plus dissertation
Katedra. A specialized field within a department
Konkursen ispit. Competitive entrance examination giving access to higher education
Kvalifikatsiya. Qualification
Kvalifikitsiran rabotnik. Qualified worker in a trade

L

Lekar. Physician
Lektor. Lecturer, reader, teacher
Literatoura. Literature

M

Matematika. Mathematics
Matura. Maturity certificate
Maturiteten ispit. Examination taken at end of secondary school for *matura*
Meditsina. Medicine
Mousika. Music

N

Nachalno uchilishte. Lower primary schools
Naukite, nauki. Science

O

Osnovno uchilishte. Primary schools, grades 1-8
Obrazovanie. Education

P

Pismen ispit. Written examination
Politekhnichesko obrazovanie. Polytechnical education
Poluvissh institut. Semi-higher institute
Popravitelen ispit. Makeup examination
Pravo. Law
Prilozhenie kam diplomu. Appendix to diploma (invalid without diploma)
Profesionalno obrazovanie. Vocational education
Progimnasia. General education schools, grades 5-8

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Psicholigiya. Psychology

R

Rektor. Rector, head of a university

S

Sekretar. Secretary- a chief executive administrative official of a higher education institution
Spetsialnost. Speciality
Sredno. Secondary
Stomatologija. Dentistry
Stomatolog. Dentist
Stopanski nauki. Economics
Svidetelstvo. Certificate of Completion

T

Tekhnikum. Technical-secondary vocational school
Tekhnichieski. Technical
Tekhnologiya. Technology
Teza. Thesis

U

Ucheben plan. Syllabus
Uchilishte. School
Uchitel(masc), *Uchitelka (fem.)*. Teacher
Universitet. University

V

Vissh Institut. Higher institute

Z

Zadochno obuchenie. Correspondence course
Zavarsheno. Completed (a program)

ТРАНСЛИТЕРАЦИОННА ТАБЛИЦА
A SIMPLE KEY TO TRANSLITERATION

Cyrillic Alphabet	English Equivalent	Sound Value
А, а	a	bath
Б, б	b	bath
В, в	v	vat
Г, г	g	gun
Д, д	d	dog
Е, е	e	den
Ж, ж	zh	measure
З, з	z	zeal
И, и	i	bit (bee at end of word)
Й, й	y	youth
К, к	k	kit
Л, л	l	lit
М, м	m	meet
Н, н	n	not
О, о	o	got (never as go)
П, п	p	pot
Р, р	r	rot
С, с	s	sat
Т, т	t	tan
У, у	ou	youth
Ф, ф	f	fruit
Х, х	h	hut (aspirate)
Ц, ц	ts	shuts
Ч, ч	ch	church
Щ, щ	sh	fish
Щ, щ	sht	fishtail
Ъ, ъ	u	but
Ю, ю	yu	yule
Я, я	ya	yarn

Key to Cyrillic Transliteration (Courtesy National Textbook Company © 1994 by NTC Publishing Group)

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Under $25	$3.50	$5.00
$25-$50	$5.00	$7.5
Over $50	10%	15%

Federal Express Account # for quick delivery: ______

______ AACRAO Member ______ NAFSA Member ______ Other
______ MasterCard ______ VISA ______ American Express
______ Check or money order enclosed

Credit card number # ______ expiration date ______

(Signature) ______

*Rates offered in this special promotion are for a limited time only